AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2011

HEARINGS

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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PART 2

TESTIMONY OF INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

214 NORTH TRYON STREET
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28202-1078

35 WEST WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601-9703

43 RUE DU RHÔNE
1204 GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

15 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
HONG KONG

99 GRESHAM STREET
LONDON EC2V 7NG

333 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071-1543

1700 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-3817

(202) 282-5000

FACSIMILE (202) 282-5100

www.winston.com

4 STASOVOY ULITSA
119071 MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

200 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10166-4193

ONE RIVERFRONT PLAZA
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102-5401

25, AVENUE MARCEAU
CS 31621
75773 PARIS CEDEX 16

101 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111-5894

BRYANT E. GARDNER
(202) 282-5893
bgardner@winston.com

March 19, 2010

VIA AG.APPROP@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Room 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

On behalf of the *Ad Hoc* Coalition in Support of Sustained Funding for Food Aid, we respectfully submit herewith the Coalition's statement for the hearing record on Fiscal Year 2011 funding. The members of the Coalition, which represent a number of farm commodity and maritime organizations, include the following (listed alphabetically):

- America Cargo Transport Corp.
- American Maritime Congress
- American Maritime Officers
- American Maritime Officers' Service
- American Peanut Council
- American Soybean Association
- APL Limited
- Central Gulf Lines, Inc.
- Global Food and Nutrition Inc.
- Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
- International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots

- Liberty Maritime Corporation
- Maersk Line, Ltd.
- Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
- Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- National Potato Council
- Sailors' Union of the Pacific
- Seafarers International Union
- Sealift, Inc.
- Transportation Institute
- United Maritime Group, LLC
- U.S. Dry Bean Council
- U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council
- U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
- USA Rice Federation
- Waterman Steamship Corporation

As required by Rule XI, 2(g)(4), we affirm that the coalition, organized solely for the purposes of presenting this testimony and advocating sustained food aid funding, has received no Federal contracts or grants during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years. We also enclosed a copy of the curriculum vitae for the undersigned.

Thank you for considering the Coalition's testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryant E. Gardner

BEG:ddb
Enclosure

CURRICULUM VITAE

Bryant E. Gardner
Winston & Strawn LLP
1700 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Professional

2000 – present	Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

Education

2000	J.D., Tulane Law School
1996	B.A., Tulane University

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Massachusetts

Other

Proctor at Admiralty

STATEMENT OF THE *AD HOC* COALITION IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR FOOD AID

Submitted for the Hearing Record
of the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
March 19, 2010

Madam Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, this statement is respectfully submitted on behalf of the *ad hoc* coalition composed of the organizations listed below. The coalition supports sustained funding for our nation's food aid programs, including Titles I and II of P.L. 480, and therefore strongly opposes all proposals to divert funding away from these important programs.

FOOD AID'S UNIQUE ROLE

The donation of American commodities as food aid has been the cornerstone of U.S. and global foreign assistance programs since their inception. However, food aid has evolved in important ways over the years. Food aid began as an outgrowth of American farm policy that generated sizeable surpluses and American foreign policy characterized by the Cold War competition for the hearts and minds of impoverished populations across the globe. Since then, American farm policy has evolved away from surpluses, and therefore food can no longer be mischaracterized as "dumping" of excess commodities. Indeed, the United States now purchases commodities for donation on the open market. In today's political and economic climate, the need to provide societal stability, avoid failed states, prevent terrorist breeding grounds, and bolster America's image abroad has never been more important.

Our in-kind food aid programs are needed now more than at any time in their history. Hunger is a powerful and destabilizing force, and America faces a convergence of terrorist and other security threats from failed and unstable states that feed on ill will toward our nation. The United Nations World Food Program tells us that in recent years the food insecure have been hit by a "perfect storm" of increases in food prices coupled with export restrictions imposed by traditional regional and local food exporters. Here at home, the ranks of long term unemployed have soared. U.S. food aid programs not only further our humanitarian and food security goals by allowing Americans to contribute to the needy in a tangible way, but the programs also provide stable jobs for Americans.

FOOD AID VERSUS CASH DONATIONS FOR "LOCAL AND REGIONAL PURCHASES"

Food for Peace, which provides farm products grown in the United States to millions overseas in bags marked as gifts "From the American People," is a clear and tangible sign of America's concern and generosity to its recipients. This same "in-kind" composition generates important economic benefits to our nation—vital jobs in many industries, farm income, markets for agriculture processors, and revenue for American transportation providers and ports. It also generates Federal, state, and local tax revenues, as well as secondary economic effects, such as farm equipment purchases and farm family spending in our broader economy. For these reasons, a strong domestic constituency for food aid, in good economic times and bad, has sustained America's food aid programs through decades of competing funding priorities.

Furthermore, for over fifty years American agriculture has provided a dependable source of high-quality nutritious food that is not always reliably available to "local" or "regional" markets. Given the recent food crisis experienced by many nations, in terms of price, availability, and quality, and considering the recent actions by some food-exporting nations to halt food exports when domestic price increases occurred, the amount and dependability of U.S.-produced food aid in P.L. 480 is crucial to our humanitarian assistance effort.

Using American taxpayer dollars to purchase foreign agricultural commodities would forego the unique benefits of U.S. food aid, such as predictable food aid supply, unparalleled quality, and good American jobs, when our country and food-deficit areas need them most. Nevertheless, additional resources have already been directed to so-called "local and regional purchases": USAID has been provided hundreds of millions of dollars of new funding for such purchases under the Foreign Assistance Act through the International Disaster and Famine Assistance Account and Congress also established a $60 million CCC-funded USDA pilot program in the 2008 Farm Bill to examine the potential dangers and benefits of this approach before considering further expansion of its use in conjunction with a strong in-kind food aid program centered around American commodities. Additionally, the UN World Food Program operations have wide latitude to purchase grain from Europe, Australia, and elsewhere.

RESTORATION OF TITLE I/FOOD FOR PROGRESS

The Title I concessional sales food aid program is an important tool in the aid "toolbox". In order to ensure that countries with the most dire need have sufficient donated food aid, the coalition recommends that USDA offer the Title I concessional sales program to countries that can afford it. Title I allows us to leverage our aid dollars, helping more people in need with our limited budget resources.

To the extent that the Title I funding truly cannot be used for concessional sales, it may be converted to donations on full grant terms through the Food for Progress ("FFP") program.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Madam Chairman, the coalition is committed to maintaining the funding for America's food aid programs to meet humanitarian needs, enhance the potential for economic growth in recipient countries, and stimulate the economy here at home. The coalition therefore shares your disappointment with the President's proposed "flat funding levels in the budget" for our U.S. food aid programs. Our recommendation is to increase, over time, annual food assistance with a blend of programs drawing upon the unique strengths of the different U.S. food aid program authorities. Specifically, the coalition respectfully recommends the following:

- Full up-front funding of Title II at the $2.5 billion authorized by law, which is consistent with the FY 2008 and FY 2009 appropriation levels, and should serve to help avoid the cycle of emergency supplemental appropriations for this program.

- Title I/Food for Progress program levels should be restored to responsible levels so that the unique efficiencies of the program are not lost and more people can be fed.

- Increase funding available for the McGovern-Dole program, leveraging the special ability of this program to reach children and to spur long-term development.

P.L. 480 Food for Peace is the world's most successful foreign assistance program, and has saved countless lives. Its straightforward delivery of American food to the hungry fills a clear and immediate need overseas, and its unique architecture has made it a successful program here at home that has endured for over fifty years.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

America Cargo Transport Corp.
American Maritime Congress
American Maritime Officers
American Maritime Officers' Service
American Peanut Council
American Soybean Association
APL Ltd.
Central Gulf Lines, Inc.
Global Food and Nutrition Inc.
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots
Liberty Maritime Corporation
Maersk Line, Ltd.
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association
Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Potato Council
Sailors' Union of the Pacific
Seafarers International Union
Sealift, Inc.
Transportation Institute
United Maritime Group, LLC
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Dry Pea & Lentil Council
U.S. Wheat Associates, Inc.
USA Rice Federation
Waterman Steamship Corporation

ALLIANCE FOR A STRONGER FDA
www.StrengthenFDA.org

Written Statement of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA Regarding FY2011 Appropriations for the US Food and Drug Administration

Submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations, March 18, 2010

For further information, contact:
Ladd Wiley, 202-887-4083, lwiley@StrengthenFDA.org Executive Director, OR
Steven Grossman, 301-539-9660, sgrossman@StrengthenFDA.org Deputy Executive Director

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA requests at least $2.857 billion for the US Food and Drug Administration for FY11. This request is exclusive of user fees.

We thank the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to present our views on the FY 2011 appropriations for the US Food and Drug Administration. The Alliance has 180 members from every stakeholder group interested in FDA. Our members include consumer and patient groups, associations, non-profits, health professions organizations, individuals and industry. Three former DHHS Secretaries and 6 former FDA commissioners are also part of our cause. We are united in the belief that:

A strong FDA benefits all Americans:
Patients, consumers, health professionals, industry
....and the whole world benefits, too.

We would like to express our appreciation to the House Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee Chair, Representative Rosa DeLauro and Ranking Member, Representative Jack Kingston. The FDA's appropriation has gone up significantly over the last three years and their support and leadership has been essential.

Those increases have been critical to strengthening the agency. Nonetheless, there remains an extraordinarily large gap between FDA's responsibilities and FDA's resources. Every year, the agency's job becomes more complex scientifically and more difficult to implement. New laws affecting FDA are enacted with some regularity, further straining the FDA's ability to meet the expectations of the Congress and the American people.

There are a number of legislative initiatives this year that would further expand the responsibilities of the FDA. As a very broad-based coalition, we take no position on the merits of any of these.

We are concerned, however, that FDA's appropriation reflect any further increases in responsibilities. As will be described, we are recommending a $495 million increase or more for the agency. This is the amount we believe is needed to make further progress against existing responsibilities. Any new legislation needs to come with the assurance that there will be larger "budget authority" appropriations to cover the cost of the additional work.

We remind the committee that FDA's appropriation is quite small, especially when matched against its jurisdiction over one-quarter of consumer spending, 80% of the food supply and all of the drugs, biologics, medical devices, animal drugs, cosmetics and dietary supplements used anywhere in the United States. FDA must also deal with the food and medical products that are sourced from overseas. Despite three years with appropriations above the break-even point, the FDA still gets only $2 billion per year. There cannot be many agencies in the US government that have such a vast scope of responsibilities and so few dollars to get the job done.

As a way to sum up many points about the agency, we have 10 things that we hope policymakers will know and remember about FDA:

- FDA is a comparatively small agency with an appropriation: just $2.35B in 2010 to regulate products that represent a quarter of all consumer spending.
- Twenty-five years ago, FDA and CDC were the same size; today the CDC budget is nearly 2 1/2 times as large.
- A strong FDA is good for the US economy and for our balance of trade.
- FDA is an integral part of our response to public health emergencies, including defense against bioterrorism.
- FDA's appropriation is almost entirely staff costs, requiring nearly 6% increase each year to sustain program levels.
- After three years of good increases (thank you, Congress), FDA staffing levels from the 2010 appropriation have only just been restored to the previous high-level achieved in 1994.
- User fees serve valuable functions, but they are targeted and support only specific activities. They don't strengthen the FDA in carrying out its overall public health mission.
- All FDA stakeholders support a stronger FDA (consumers, patients, health professionals, and industry).
- FDA's responsibilities increase each year---through new mandates, globalization, scientific complexity.

- **FDA touches every American multiple times each day. Today's investment (2 cents per day per American) is a pittance compared to the benefit of a strong FDA and the risk of an underfunded FDA.**

The Alliance often compares the FDA's budget to that of the Montgomery County school system's budget. The Superintendent of Schools and the FDA Commissioner had offices less than three miles apart before the Commissioner moved to White Oak. When the Superintendent looks out his window, he reflects on the educational needs between Takoma Park and Germantown. When the Commissioner looks out his window, he reflects on the food and medical product needs of the entire world. Yet, until last year, the Superintendent had a significantly larger budget to spend than the Commissioner.

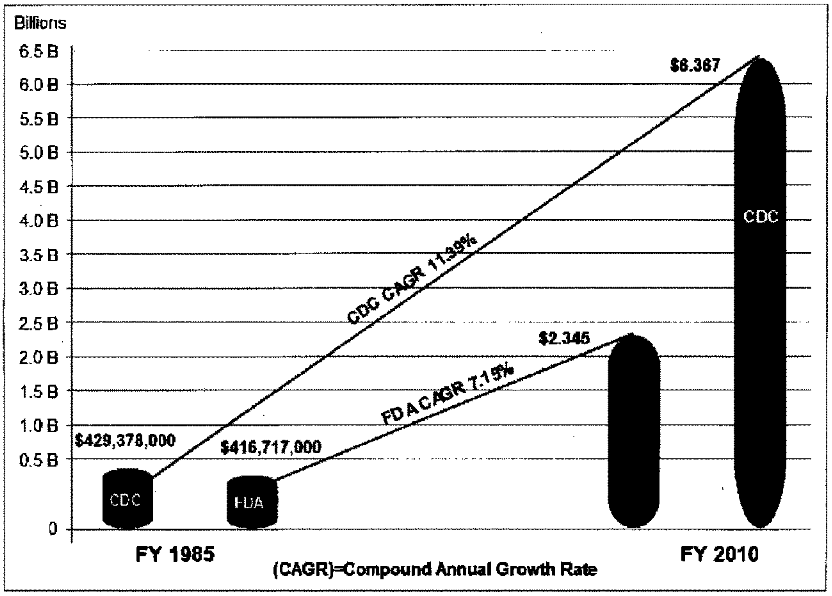
More than 80% of the FDA's budget is people-related. This includes salary, benefits, rent, telecom, training, office equipment, travel, etc. There are no grants to pull back if the money comes up short. Instead, over much of the last 20 years, when FDA's funding has been inadequate, the result has been layoffs, hiring freezes and buy-outs. Now that the agency's funding situation has improved, there are still many FDA managers concerned that this year's hires may need to be dismissed if next year's appropriation doesn't continue to grow.

At this point, FDA needs more than $100 million more each year just to sustain the prior year's FTEs and program initiatives. Substantial dollars are needed above that level to help close the gap between responsibilities and resources.

The solution, which is also our goal, is to strengthen FDA's ability to operate a modern, scientifically-based regulatory program. To do so, the FDA needs to be provided with resources to rebuild the infrastructure and assure the safety of foods and cosmetics and the safety and efficacy of drugs and medical devices.

In the mid-1980's, FDA and CDC had similar budgets (about $400 million each in FY 1985). In FY 10, CDC has a budget authority appropriation of $6.37 billion dollars, a compound annual growth rate greater than 11%. In comparison, FDA has a budget of $2.35 billion, a compound annual growth rate of about 7%.

The impact is particularly pronounced when the differences are graphed and the upward slopes compared (below). The chart is in nominal dollars. If we were to look at constant dollars, CDC is a substantially bigger agency than 25 years ago. In FDA's case, the net grown over the same period has been insubstantial and much of the growth is in the last three years.



We are not suggesting that FDA should have a $6 billion budget. Rather, the degree to which FDA has fallen behind is often hard to see, because the agency is being compared to itself. In this comparison, it is dramatic and can lead to only one conclusion: FDA is not funded to meet its responsibilities as a public health and regulatory agency.

We do not know what the right number for FDA is....only that it is significantly more than the current budget. Large increases for a number of years are going to be needed.

For the immediate timeframe, the Alliance for a Stronger FDA requests a $495 million increase or more for the FDA in FY 2011. We believe that the President's budget request of $154 million is a step in the right direction, but substantially below what is needed. Below, our request is broken down by centers and major functions. We show FY 2008, 2009 and 2010 for comparison. This recognizes that growth over the last three has changed the direction of the agency. More will be needed....this year, next year and thereafter.

Function Note: budget authority only, by center	**FY 08 Actual (December 2007)**	**FY 09 Final (March 2009)**	**FY 10 Final (October 2009)**	**FY 11 Recommendation of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA**
Food	$ 510 million	$ 649 million	$ 784 million	$ 955 million
Human Drugs	$ 353 million	$ 413 million	$465 million	$580 million
Biologics	$ 155 million	$ 183 million	$206 million	$255 million
Animal Drugs/Feed	$ 97 million	$ 116 million	$135 million	$165 million
Devices & Radiological Health	$ 238 million	$ 280 million	$315 million	$385 million
Natl. Ctr. For Toxicol. Res.	$ 44 million	$ 52 million	$59 million	$72 million
HQ, Off. of Comm./ Other	$ 97 million	$ 121 million	$144 million	$183 million
Rent & Facilities	$ 220 million	$ 223 million	$237 million	$250 million
TOTAL, Salaries and Expenses	**$1.714 billion**	**$2.039 billion**	**$2.346 billion**	**$ 2.857 billion**

We have allocated new money to building and facility rental, which is more than 20% of the FDA's budget. We are told that the FDA will reach a point where White Oak (even with the new building being constructed) and College Park will barely fit the FTE's that have been authorized and/or will be transferring from Parklawn and other facilities that are closing. A more substantial increase in rental costs may be needed in FY 2011. We hope the Committee will follow this closely and assure that rental costs are fully funded. Increases in rental costs should not be covered by tapping into new program monies or by disproportionate allocations from user fees.

New monies from this year and last year are now flowing into the FDA and are being translated into recruitment, hiring, training and deployment. Because of the nature of FDA jobs, many of the new hires may not reduce division workloads for upwards of a year. This is a slow process, but necessary to grow and strengthen FDA.

Going forward, The Alliance is committed to working with the Congress and FDA to ensure:

- Transparency in how new appropriated monies are spent, and
- Clear communications from FDA about the public health benefits that have been achieved with the new funding.

In closing, the Alliance for a Stronger FDA reiterates its appreciation for the efforts of Committee members and their staffs to change the course of the FDA. They are strengthening the agency and guiding it toward success.

We remain available to the Committee to provide information and analysis at any time.

ACDA

American Commodity Distribution Association

★AGRICULTURE★INDUSTRY★GOVERNMENT
WORKING TOGETHER

Statement of
Gary Gay, President
American Commodity Distribution Association
Before the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
March 19, 2010

On behalf of the American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA), I respectfully submit this statement regarding the budget request of the Food and Nutrition Service for inclusion in the Subcommittee's official record. ACDA members appreciate the Subcommittee's support for these vital programs. We also thank you for this opportunity to share our experiences and recommendations with you.

We urge the subcommittee to maintain administrative expense funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) at $74.5 million; to make TEFAP food purchase dollars available for two fiscal years; to approve the Administration's budget request for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and to evaluate alternative approaches for the Department of Defense Fresh Program.

ACDA is a non-profit professional trade association, dedicated to the growth and improvement of USDA's Commodity Food Distribution Program. ACDA members include: state agencies that distribute USDA-purchased commodity foods; agricultural organizations; industry; associate members; recipient agencies, such as schools and soup kitchens; and allied organizations, such as anti-hunger groups. ACDA members are responsible for distributing over 1.5 billion pounds of USDA-purchased commodity foods annually through programs such as National School Lunch Program, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), Charitable Institution Program, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

Maintain TEFAP Administrative Funds at $74.5 million, as provided for FY 2009 and FY 2010

We urge the subcommittee to maintain TEFAP Administrative Funds at $74.5 million, as provided for FY 2009 and FY 2010 when ARRA funds were added to the regular appropriation.

Food banks around the nation are in great need. The number of Americans who are turning to food banks for assistance continues to increase. The Congress appropriated $49.5 million for TEFAP Administrative Funds in both FY 2009 and 2010, and, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, supplemented these amounts with an additional $25 million. These resources have been used responsibly, and are sincerely appreciated.

Donations to food banks are declining as many individuals and businesses no longer have the ability to be as supportive as they had been in the past. One of our members, Hunger Solutions Minnesota, reports that one half to two thirds of the food distributed by Minnesota food banks is from TEFAP. TEFAP has allowed Minnesota to distribute more food to more people with no impact on their budget. Minnesota Food Shelves are able to procure this much needed product from the food banking system without paying for the shared maintenance or transportation fees. Most Minnesota food shelves are small nonprofit organizations run by volunteers with thrifty budgets. They have very limited capacity for raising more funds to cover this potential loss of funding.

In Florida, TEFAP operators are distributing over 39 million pounds of USDA food at no charge (administrative, shared maintenance, etc.) to their sub-distributors. The TEFAP Administrative funds help pay for that distribution which often includes delivery to sub-distributors more than one hundred miles away. The additional funding has gone a long way toward compensating the TEFAP Recipient Agencies for the cost of trucking, fuel, storing the additional TEFAP food, and other related costs, without passing those costs on to sub-distributors like food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. This in turn helps those emergency feeding organizations which would otherwise have to find the resources to help defray the costs of acquiring the food, picking it up from the Recipient Agency, and other necessary activities in order to assist the needy residents of their communities.

The Food Bank Association of New York State believes that the FY 2011 budget proposal may result in statewide cuts in excess of $1.4 million, adversely impacting the three million people served by almost 2,500 emergency food programs throughout the state.

Other ACDA members tell us that if TEFAP expense funds are reduced as effectively proposed by the FY 2011 budget request, they will have to accept less food to reduce shipping/warehousing expenses, and will likely have to cut reimbursement to local distributors. These reimbursements are key to maintaining distribution sites, especially in rural distribution sites.

We recognize that States have had the ability to convert a portion of their food funds to administrative funds, and have done so. We appreciate this flexibility, but must respectfully point out that even if this flexibility is continued, TEFAP operators will experience a significant reduction in available administrative expense funds that jeopardizes their ability to provide essential food assistance to needy Americans.

Sec. 4201 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (PL 110-246) increased the authorization for TEFAP Administrative Expense funds from $60 million to $100 million, recognizing the need for increased expense funds to responsibly manage increased TEFAP food supplies. Our request for $74.5 million, is, therefore, not an increase over the total amounts provided in FY 2009 and FY 2010, and is well within the amounts authorized.

Make TEFAP Food Dollars Available for Two Fiscal Years

We urge the subcommittee to make TEFAP food dollars available for two fiscal years, as was done under ARRA.

While the agencies of the Department of Agriculture work closely with food banks to provide as much food for distribution as possible, there are occasions when food dollars are at jeopardy through no fault of recipient agencies. If food orders are cancelled by either USDA or vendors for any reason near the end of the federal fiscal year, state agencies must either purchase whatever items might be available through USDA, or lose these end-of-year balances.

At the end of FY 2009 Florida had an ARRA TEFAP balance of **$1.6 million** on September 28, 2009 due to the cancellation of cheese orders that day. Florida's regular TEFAP balance was **$218,023.** On September 8, 2009 the TEFAP entitlement balance in New York was just over $12,000. On September 28 it was $415,000 due to the significant cancellations and deletions of truckloads of commodity foods. On July 28' 2009, New York's ARRA balance was $11,000. On September 28 it was $481,000. Other ACDA members have told us of similar experiences in their states.

Food banks are working diligently to use every dollar responsibly because every dollar is needed. When ARRA was passed, TEFAP food dollars were allowed to be carried over from FY 2009 to FY 2010. This procedure helped food bank operators to make responsible decisions and to take maximum advantage of available resources.

We urge the committee to make TEFAP food dollars available for two years, and urge the Secretary of Agriculture to allow those states who made responsible efforts to use their TEFAP Food dollars to roll over to the next fiscal year balances unexpended through no fault of the TEFAP operator.

ACDA Supports the FY 2011 Budget Request for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program

ACDA is pleased to support the FY 2011 budget request of $176,788,000 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The Congress in FY 2010 once again demonstrated its support for this important program with a funding level that allowed seven states with approved plans to begin serving eligible individuals within those states, while allowing for needed caseload expansion in the 32 states, the District of Columbia, and 2 Indian Tribal Organizations previously offering the program.

While we understand that there may be as many as four additional states considering making application for their own CSFP, at this time we believe the President's request will fully fund the current caseload, including the caseload provided to the seven new states. It may be necessary at a later date to add to the budget request should USDA approve state plans.

ACDA Requests the Evaluation of Alternative Approaches for DoD Fresh

There is broad consensus that improving the nutritional well-being of Americans, particularly children, includes increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, including fresh items. USDA's commodity program is constrained in its ability to distribute fresh foods.

However, in the 1990s the Department developed a partner relationship with the Department of Defense to utilize some of the federal commodity entitlement for school meal programs to allow school districts to purchase through the DoD distribution system. This program, DoD Fresh, was very successful.

Changes in the DoD procurement and distribution program which have outsourced these procurement activities have had a deleterious effect on the school program. This change has also created a situation where each school that participates must pay a fee to access the DoD secure ordering system.

The Secretary has worked to ameliorate these fees, approximately $3 million per year, in the short term, but this is a temporary fix. We believe that there may be an alternate approach that will restore the many benefits of the original DoD Fresh program.

We are asking the Committee to direct the Secretary to evaluate alternative approaches for replacing DoD Fresh including, but not limited to, developing an analog program through the Agricultural Marketing Service, and report back to the Committee on these options.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you and USDA in the delivery of these needed services.

Statement of the American Farm Bureau Federation

TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 19, 2010

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600 Maryland Ave. SW | Suite 1000W | Washington, DC 20024 | p. 202.406.3600 | f. 202.406.3606 | www.fb.org

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has identified five general areas for increased emphasis and funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs in the Fiscal Year 2011 agriculture spending bill. They are:

- Programs that enhance and improve food safety and protection;
- Programs that expand domestic and export markets for agriculture;
- Programs that strengthen rural communities;
- Programs that improve USDA efficiency; and
- Research Priorities.

Farm Bureau strongly opposes any cuts to funding for the farm safety net. Such cuts would break a five year commitment made to America's farmers and ranchers in the 2008 farm bill. Producers have made business decisions based on this contract with the government, and to break these commitments would be destabilizing to a rural economy that is already impacted by this country's severe recession and credit crisis.

Programs that Enhance and Improve Food Safety and Protection

Americans spend more than $1 trillion annually on food – nearly half of it in restaurants, schools and other places outside the home. Consumers have a reasonable expectation that the food products they buy are safe. The continued safety of food is crucial to consumers, as well as production agriculture and the food industry. AFBF believes that sufficient, reliable federal funding for the government's food and feed safety and protection functions is vital to this effort.

Therefore, we recommend that funding be increased for food protection at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and at the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and directed to:

- Increased education and training of inspectors;
- Additional science-based inspection, targeted according to risk;
- Research and development of scientifically based rapid testing procedures and tools;
- Accurate and timely responses to outbreaks that identify contaminated products, remove them from the market and minimize disruption to producers; and
- Indemnification for producers who suffer marketing losses due to inaccurate government-advised recalls or warnings.

We also support authorized funding of $2.5 million for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD). FARAD aids veterinarians in establishing science-based recommendations for drug withdrawal intervals, critical for both food safety and animal health. No other government program provides or duplicates the food safety information FARAD provides to the public. Without the critical FARAD program, producers may be forced to euthanize animals or dispose of meat, milk and eggs due to the lack of withdrawal information.

Programs that Expand Domestic and Export Markets for Agriculture

America is increasingly committed to being a nation fueled by clean, renewable, domestic energy. Biofuels are a crucial to this effort and create new domestic markets for our commodities. AFBF supports the research, production and promotion of agricultural products into home-grown fuels. We urge you to provide $10,000,000 for the establishment of Regional Biofuels Feedstocks Research and Demonstration Centers in USDA.

In order to take full advantage of the market opportunities offered through trade agreements AFBF supports funding at authorized levels for:

-The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to maintain services that expand agricultural export markets. We urge continued support for the Office of the Secretary for trade negotiations and biotechnology resources.

-The Market Access Program, the Foreign Market Development Program, the Emerging Markets Program and the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program that are effective export development and expansion programs. These programs have resulted in increased demand for U.S. agriculture and food products abroad and should be fully funded.

-P.L. 480 programs which serve as the primary means by which the United States provides needed foreign food assistance through the purchase of U.S. commodities. In addition to providing short-term humanitarian assistance, the program helps to develop long-term commercial export markets.

As trade increases between countries, so do does the threat of new invasive and noxious pests that can destroy America's agricultural and natural resources. Therefore, we support full funding for the following Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) programs:

-The APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine personnel and facilities, especially the plant inspection stations, that are necessary to protect U.S. agriculture from costly pest problems that enter the U.S. from foreign lands.

-APHIS trade issues resolution and management activities that are essential for an effective response when other countries raise pest and disease concerns (i.e., sanitary and phytosanitary measures) to prohibit the entry of American products.

-APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) that play an important role in overseeing the permit, notification and deregulation process for products of biotechnology. BRS personnel and activities are essential to ensure public confidence and international acceptance of biotechnology products.

Funding for the U.S. Codex Office is essential to developing harmonized international standards for food and food products. Codex standards provide uniformity in food rules and regulations by allowing countries to adopt similar levels of safety protection for consumers while concurrently facilitating transparency in food trade.

The International Food for Education Program is an effective platform for delivering severely needed food aid and educational assistance and should be fully funded.

Programs that Strengthen Rural Communities

The lack of high-speed, modern telecommunications systems in rural America hinders its residents' access to educational, medical and business opportunities, and therefore hampers the economic growth of rural America. We support funding for loans and grants administered by the

Rural Utilities Service to increase rural broadband capacity and telecommunications services and to fund the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

Rural entrepreneurs often lack access to the capital and technical assistance necessary to start new businesses. These new ventures are needed for rural communities to sustain themselves and contribute to our national economy. AFBF supports funding for USDA Rural Development (RD) programs that foster new business development in rural communities. These programs include Value-Added Agricultural Producer Grants, the Rural Innovation Initiative, the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and Business and Industry Direct and Guaranteed Loans.

Many rural communities lack access to the tax base necessary to provide modern community facilities like fire stations. Farm Bureau support funding for RD's Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans, which finance the construction, enlargement or improvement of essential community facilities in rural areas and small towns.

Renewable energy production holds great promise as a means to help America's farmers and rural communities contribute to our national economy and enhance our national security. We support increasing funding for the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP offers grants, guaranteed loans and combination grant/guaranteed loans for agricultural producers to purchase renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements, as well as offer funding for energy audits and feasibility studies.

The Revolving Fund (RFP) Grant Program helps communities acquire safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound waste disposal facilities. With dependable water facilities, rural communities can attract families and businesses that will invest in the community and improve the quality of life for all residents. We support funding for this important program.

AFBF supports funding for and opposes any effort to eliminate the Resource Conservation and Development program. This vital program supports economic development and resource protection. This program, in cooperation with rural development councils, helps local volunteers create new businesses, form cooperatives, develop marketing and agri-tourism activities, improve water quality and flood control, improve leadership and other business skills and implement renewable energy projects.

AFBF supports full funding for Agriculture in the Classroom, a national grassroots program coordinated by the USDA. This worthy program helps students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

Programs that Improve USDA Efficiency

Farm Bureau supports providing $95.3 million to improve computer technology in the Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA currently operates on the oldest technology system within USDA and one of the oldest systems in the entire federal government. These outdated systems create enormous inefficiencies throughout the department, and it is unclear how long these antiquated systems can continue to support increasingly complex farm programs. Systems across agencies under USDA jurisdiction cannot communicate with each other, which could lead to improper payments and often requires duplicative paperwork and additional labor hours. Upgrading FSA computer technology now will lead to greater efficiencies down the road and could prevent a future system failure.

Research Priorities

Farm Bureau utilizes commodity advisory committees to identify USDA program areas important to specific agricultural industries. Based on the recommendations of these advisory groups, Farm Bureau supports:

- Funding for efforts to control, prevent and eradicate Citrus Greening Disease including funding for research, public and industry outreach and border monitoring.
- Funding to conduct research on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill including research on the affects of pesticides, viruses, parasitic mites and other distress management issues.
- Appropriating $2.25 million, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, to conduct a National Honeybee Pest Survey to identify what pests, diseases, viruses and pathogens are present in the United States.
- Funding for research to determine the impact on public lands sheep and goat herds of species that currently exist, have been reintroduced, or are planning to be introduced for the first time.
- Funding for research for soybean diseases using sentinel plots and mapping.
- Funding for research for the USDA-ARS Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative and "regionalization" of research throughout the land grant system.
- Funding for genomic research on the peanut plant.
- Funding to support Texas Cattle Fever Tick control and eradication programs and to encourage development of new user-friendly products and management practices.

Testimony of of William R. Murray, Deputy General Counsel
American Forest & Paper Association
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
March 19, 2010

Primary AF&PA Recommendations

Account	Program	F.Y. 2010 ($M)	AF&PA ($M)
Food and Drug Administration	Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)	236.600	259.400
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Lacey Act Enforcement	*no funding specifically designated	5.500
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Emerging Plant Pests	158.769	176.269
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research	29.000	35.000

Introduction

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is the national trade association of the forest products industry, representing forest landowners and pulp, paper, packaging, and wood products manufacturers. AF&PA companies make products essential for everyday life from renewable and recyclable resources.

The U.S. forest products industry accounts for approximately six percent of total domestic manufacturing GDP (putting it on par with the automotive and plastics industries). Forest industry companies produce $200 billion in products annually, employ one million people, and provide $54 billion in annual payroll. The industry is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 48 states. Lumber, panel, pulp, and paper mills are frequently the economic hub of local communities, making the industry's health critical to the economic vitality of hundreds of rural areas across the country.

Declining timber harvests from Federal lands have resulted in severe job losses in many forestry-dependent communities. Many actions are needed to help preserve the industry's remaining jobs and contribute to the broader revitalization of the economy. Congress and the Administration must continue to improve credit markets, stimulate demand for housing, and craft policies that recognize the significant contributions made by the wood and paper industries towards renewable energy and climate goals. Within the jurisdiction of this subcommittee, continued resources for approval of paper-based food packaging, protecting forest health, and providing adequate resources to enforce existing trade laws are essential. Specific recommendations follow.

Food and Drug Administration – Food Contact Notification Program

The Food Contact Notification (FCN) program protects consumer health, food safety and quality while providing packaging manufacturers with an efficient process which is less burdensome than the food additive approval process. It has allowed packaging manufacturers to bring new products to market which are more environmentally friendly and have extended product shelf life, thereby increasing consumer value.

The President's F.Y. 2011 Budget includes $2.5 billion for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). On a current authorities basis, the budget proposes $259.4 million in funding for FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), an increase of $22.8 million from F.Y. 2010 funding levels. The FDA's Congressional budget justification states that the FDA budget request assumes continued funding for the Food Contact Notification Program. AF&PA appreciates that the subcommittee has previously rejected proposals to eliminate the FCN program. ***AF&PA supports the Administration's Budget Request which ensures continued funding of the Food Contact Notification Program.***

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Lacey Act Enforcement

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Lacey Act (16 USC 3371 et seq.)to make it unlawful to trade wood products or other plants taken in violation of the laws of either a U.S. state or foreign country. This ground-breaking legislation is already beginning to influence the way companies make sourcing decisions and monitor their supply chains. Full and effective implementation and enforcement of the Lacey Act will enable American forest product companies to compete fairly in the global marketplace, help keep jobs in the United States, deter the destructive impacts of illegal logging on forests and forest-dependent communities in developing countries, and reinforce initiatives to mitigate climate change.

The law requires U.S. importers of wood products to file a declaration identifying the species name and country of harvest — a critical measure intended by the law's sponsors to increase supply chain transparency and assist federal agencies in fair and strong enforcement. The prohibition and the declaration requirement affect a wide array of American industries, so it is critical that the declaration process generates data in a streamlined, cost-effective manner without unduly burdening legitimate trade. To that end, APHIS — which is responsible for implementing the declaration provision — needs $5.5 million in funding to establish an electronic declarations database and to add internal capacity to perform data analysis needed for monitoring and enforcement purposes.

AF&PA supports $5.5 million to provide for implementation of the Lacey Act, as amended by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Emerging Plant Pests

As world trade continues to expand, global weather patterns shift, and an increasingly affluent world population has the ability to travel to — and demand products from — the far corners of the globe, the inadvertent, yet inevitable introduction of nonnative pests and diseases into the United States continues. Additional funding is vitally needed to aid in combating pests such as the Asian longhorn beetle, the Emerald Ash borer, and the Sirex woodwasp, as well as diseases such as Phytopthora ramorum. These are but a sampling of the diseases which harm commercial timber stands, community parks, and private forest landowners. American citizens will most certainly bear the cost of combating these and other emergent threats. We believe that a comprehensive, coordinated response to each is more effective and more economical.

AF&PA supports additional funding for APHIS Emerging Plant Pests and urge the provision of at least an additional $17.5 million to aid in combating these, and other pests and diseases.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research

Approximately one-third of the United States is forested and these forests enhance our quality of life and economic vitality and are an invaluable source of renewable bioproducts, outdoor recreation, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration. Sustaining these forests in a healthy and productive condition requires a strong, continuing commitment to scientific research and graduate education. Foundational financial support for university-based forestry research and graduate education comes from the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry program, funded through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Funds are distributed according to a statutory formula to each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, with a dollar-for-dollar match required from the states.

Additional funding is needed to:

- Provide the additional scientific discoveries needed to address critical forest issues such as fires, storms, climate change, insects, diseases, urbanization, fragmentation, and lost economic opportunities.
- Develop new knowledge and innovations to sustain healthy, productive forests and address the challenges facing forest owners, forest products manufacturers and all Americans who benefit from our forest resources.
- Support research capacity within each state to address issues that are essential to their private forest owners, and develop new opportunities for economic benefit from their forests.

AF&PA requests $35 million for the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Program.

American Forest Foundation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Nursery & Landscape Association
California Forest Pest Council
City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation, Bureau of Forestry
Davey Institute
International Maple Syrup Institute
Mulch & Soil Council
National Association of State Foresters
National Plant Board
The Nature Conservancy
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
North American Maple Syrup Council, Inc.
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Purdue University, Department of Entomology
Society of American Florists
Union of Concerned Scientists

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food
and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 2010

RE: Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Emerging Plant Pests

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

We urge the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies to increase funding substantially for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Emerging Plant Pests program. A sharp increase in funding is necessary in order to ensure adequate funding for eradication and control efforts targeting the Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, sudden oak death pathogen, sirex woodwasp, thousand canker disease, and gold-spotted oak borer. All six invasive species threaten trees in our forests and communities and related economic values worth hundreds of billions of dollars. We also support expansion of APHIS' program to address the firewood pathway by which forest pests are transported to previously un-infested parts of the country.

We recognize that the requested increases – which total $17.5 million over the FY10 appropriation – are significant in the current climate of budgetary restraint. We put them forward, however, as our best information on the true cost of addressing the severe threat to America's economy and natural resources arising from these pests. Pests not contained by USDA APHIS become burdens to states, communities, and individual property owners. We, the citizens, will pay control and response costs; we believe it is best if these costs are incorporated into coordinated, federal programs that are effective in minimizing damage caused by already-introduced pests and preventing future introductions.

This coalition represents a widely diverse group of stakeholders that are unified in support of the following program areas. This statement of common goals supplements individual letters submitted to the Subcommittee by several of these organizations. Some of these individual letters address additional issues.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

We seek an appropriation of $49 million for FY2011 to carry out eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle. Maintaining the elevated FY2010 level of funding in FY2011 is necessary because of the ruinous threat that the Asian longhorned beetle poses to hardwood forests reaching from New England into Minnesota and in the West; to the dependent hardwood timber, maple syrup, and autumn foliage tourism industries; and to street trees across the nation. APHIS and its state partners must complete eradication of Asian longhorned beetle populations in New Jersey and parts of New York; continue progress toward final elimination of the beetle in other parts of New York; build on the strong progress made in containing the alarming outbreak in Worcester, Massachusetts; and support expanded efforts to ensure that no other outbreaks in the Northeast remain undetected.

The availability of $41 million in emergency funds empowers APHIS to eradicate the pest through aggressive removal of infested or exposed trees promptly after their detection and chemically treat tens of thousands of additional trees. However, emergency funds cannot be used to pay for detection efforts at high-risk sites in New England. This essential work must continue to be supported by appropriated funds.

EMERALD ASH BORER

We seek an appropriation of $37 million for FY2011 to contain the emerald ash borer. This represents continuation of the program at the FY2010 level. The emerald ash borer threatens sixteen species of ash across the continent. The greatest cost associated with loss of trees to the emerald ash borer is to towns and property owners who must remove dead or threatened trees to prevent their falling and causing injuries or property damage. A recently published study by Kent Kovacs and colleagues estimated that spread of the emerald ash borer to additional areas over the next ten years could result in more than $10 billion in costs to urban and suburban areas for tree removal and replacement or chemical treatments. This study did not include the Plains states, which are highly vulnerable because of the high proportion of city trees in those states that are ash. There are more than 4 million ash trees on urban land in Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. The Plains states are taking steps to absorb the cost of ash treatment and removal - for example, by speeding up ash removal in the course of routine tree maintenance programs. Still, costs will be in the hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars for individual cities in these states, depending on the numbers of trees involved and their size. For example, Ann Arbor, Michigan spent nearly $4 million to cut down 10,000 trees. Removal and replacement of the 97,000 ash trees growing along Chicago's streets is estimated to cost $150 million.

None of these estimates includes the substantial value of the trees themselves. Urban trees reduce summer cooling and winter heating bills; reduce storm-water runoff; and raise property values.

The emerald ash borer outbreak is too large to be eradicated. The infestation now occupies expanding portions of thirteen states – significant areas in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, and portions of Pennsylvania; with more distant outbreaks in Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Most of these outbreaks were caused by the movement of infested nursery stock or firewood. Continuing funding at the current level will allow APHIS to work with partners to carry out detection surveys needed to locate additional emerald ash borer outbreaks; apply regulatory measures and public education to deter people from transporting infested wood; and test improved detection methods (traps and lures) and suppression methodologies – both biological and chemical control. We suggest that research on biological control particularly might deserve increased funding. The Administration's proposed severe reduction in program funding would undercut these vitally important components of a comprehensive slow-the-spread program, which is meant to provide verified management tools to areas experiencing this devastating pest for the first time.

PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM

We request an appropriation of $7 million for FY2011 to contain *Phytophthora ramorum*, known commonly as sudden oak death or Phytophthora leaf and stem blight. *Phytophthora ramorum* threatens nearly one hundred North American plant species, including such widespread trees in eastern forests and urban/suburban landscapes as oaks, black walnut, sugar maple, and magnolias. To protect hardwood forests across the continent, as well as our city and suburban landscapes, APHIS must address more effectively the spread of this pathogen through the commercial trade. Despite five years' of efforts, 26 nurseries and 6 landscape sites still had infected plants in 2009. While significantly fewer than in 2004, when 176 nurseries had infected plants, the risk to forests and ornamental landscapes remains as long as the pathogen continues to be found on plants in trade. Five of the nurseries with infected plants in 2009 are in states with extensive oak-dominated forests – Florida, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Texas. This disease damages the nursery industry itself because it attacks many common ornamental species, including rhododendrons and camellias that have an annual value of more than $250 million.

At a December 2009 meeting convened by USDA officials and involving state departments of agriculture, representatives of the nursery industry, and conservation organizations, it was agreed that APHIS's regulatory program for *P. ramorum* should move toward greater reliance on management of critical control points. Use of a systems approach rather than the current reliance on periodic inspections of plants will be the preferred approach in the future. Important steps in the development and validation of such approaches are being funded under the Farm Bill's Title X, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, Section 10201, Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program. We encourage the Congress to maintain this funding mechanism in FY11 and beyond. This is critical investment in research and development. Still, the APHIS regulatory program itself is funded by the Emerging Plant Pest account. Implementation of the recommended shift in this program from one based on inspections to one based on a systems approach will be incremental; for at least the first several years, APHIS will be managing both the traditional regulatory program and an expanding systems-based program. The agency will need additional funding to carry out this task. We seek an increase of $2.7 million to allow APHIS to begin implementation of the new approach in calendar year 2011, along with sustaining Farm Bill Sec. 10201 funding.

SIREX WOODWASP

We support the Administration's request for an appropriation of $1.5 million for FY2011. We remain concerned that the sirex woodwasp poses a serious threat to pine resources across the continent. We will seek increased funding for this pest through the USDA Forest Service to assist states and private landowners to develop and apply control strategies. In the meantime, APHIS should continue its efforts to track spread of the woodwasp, to develop biological control tools, and to determine effective treatments aimed at preventing movement of infested wood, nursery stock, and other materials that spread the insect.

ADDRESSING NEW PESTS AND IMPORTANT PATHWAYS BY WHICH PESTS SPREAD

We urge the Congress to encourage APHIS to adopt regulations aimed at preventing the spread of thousand canker disease from the West to the walnut's native range in the East. This disease threatens to kill highly valuable native and ornamental black walnut trees nationwide. An APHIS evaluation has estimated the value of the black walnut timber supply at $1 trillion.

We urge the Congress to encourage APHIS to adopt regulations aimed at preventing spread of the gold-spotted oak borer from southern California and Arizona. Already, the gold-spotted oak borer has killed nearly 20,000 oak trees in southern California. We strongly support an APHIS initiative to manage the pathways by which forest pests are moved around the country, especially firewood. We ask the Congress to provide $1 million to implement the recommendations of the APHIS-led Firewood Task Force.

We applaud the Administration's support for continued funding of programs under Farm Bill Sections 10201 and 10202.

We note that the Administration has this year released significant emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), a step long called for by this Subcommittee. We support such a coordinated use of combined appropriations and CCC funds to ensure accomplishment of actions needed to curtail pest risks.

APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine works closely with the USDA Forest Service and other partners – particularly through cooperative funding agreements with state forestry, state departments of agriculture, and state land grant universities - to carry out much of the survey and detection activities related to non-native introduced tree diseases and insect pests.

Action now at the funding level requested would help ensure that these forest pests do not reach populations so large as to threaten trees in our forests and communities, garden nursery stock, and related economic activities worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Sincerely,

American Forest Foundation: Tom Martin, President and CEO
American Forest & Paper Association: William R. Murray, Deputy General Counsel

American Nursery & Landscape Association: Craig J. Regelbrugge, Vice President, Government Relations and Research
California Forest Pest Council: Bob Rynearson, Chairman
City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation, Bureau of Forestry: Joseph J. McCarthy, Senior City Forester
Davey Institute: Anand B. Persad, Ph.D., B.C.E., Regional Technical Advisor
International Maple Syrup Institute: Gary Gaudette, President
Mulch & Soil Council: Robert C. LaGasse, Executive Director
National Association of State Foresters: Jay Farrell, Executive Director
National Plant Board: Carl P. Schulze, Jr., President
The Nature Conservancy: Robert L. Bendick, Director, Government Relations
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Robert K. Davies, New York Stat Forester, Director of Lands and Forests
North American Maple Syrup Council, Inc.: Rick Marsh, President
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: Russell C. Redding, Secretary
Purdue University, Department of Entomology: Clifford S. Sadof, Professor
Society of American Florists: Lin Schmale, Senior Director, Government Relations
Union of Concerned Scientists, Phyllis N. Windle, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Director, Invasive Species

Pest	**FY 09 funding level (Omnibus)**	**FY10 appropriation**	**FY11 Admin proposal**	**FY11 Dialogue "ask"**
Asian longhorned beetle	$19,918,000 appropriated	$33,021,000	$49M	$49 M
	~ $24 M	CCC - $41 M		
Emerald ash borer	$34,625,000	$37,205,000	$13 M	$37
Sirex woodwasp	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	$1.5 M	$1.5 M
Sudden oak death	$5,305,000	$5,347,000	$5.1 M	$7 M
Thousand canker disease				TBD
Gold-spotted oak borer				TBD
TOTAL	$61.3 M appropriated	$77 M approp	$68.6 M	$94.5 M
	$24 M CCC emergency	$41 M CCC		

Statement of Mr. Kenneth Haff
President, American Honey Producers Association, Inc.
for the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.
FY 2011

Chairwoman DeLauro and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Kenneth Haff, and I currently serve as President of the American Honey Producers Association ("AHPA"). I am pleased today to submit the following statement on behalf of the AHPA, a national organization of commercial beekeepers actively engaged in honey production and crop pollination throughout the country. The purpose of this statement is to bring to your attention the continued threats faced by American beekeepers and the billions of dollars in U.S. agriculture that rely upon honeybee pollination services. With those threats in mind, we respectfully request an appropriation that meets the needs anticipated by the 2008 Farm Bill authorization of $20 million in additional research funds to combat CCD and to conduct other essential honeybee research through the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and other agencies at the Department of Agriculture.

As I speak to you today, U.S. beekeepers are facing the most extraordinary of challenges. Colony Collapse Disorder ("CCD") has continued to ravage bee colonies across the United States, moving from one hive to another in unpredictable patterns. The result has been the death of up to 90% of the bee colonies in affected apiaries. In early 2007, the National Research Council at the National Academy of Sciences characterized the beekeeping industry as being in "crisis mode" – a point echoed and re-emphasized in a 2008 action plan regarding honeybee threats. Hundreds of news articles and many in-depth media reports have continued to chronicle the looming disaster facing American beekeepers and the producers of over 90 fruit, vegetable and fiber crops that rely on honeybee pollination. The President's own budget documents for Fiscal Year 2011 state, "The beekeeping industry, and growers that depend on the honey bee for pollination are facing a crisis because of CCD, a new syndrome that appeared throughout the country in late 2006, killing 25 percent of hives nationally and 80 to 90 percent of hives in some apiaries. Mitigation will depend on determining the cause of the syndrome, and finding practical, cost-effective solutions useful to the bee industry."

However, despite extensive and coordinated work by experts from government, academia and the private sector, the definitive causes of and solutions for CCD have yet to be identified. In fact, USDA is yet unable to provide even a definition for CCD for purposes of insurance recovery for associated losses. In a March 15, 2010 Washington Post article entitled, "Bees are busier than ever as disease besieges colonies", Adrian Higgins writes that "more than three years after beekeepers started seeing the sudden disappearance of hive populations, scientists have yet to find the cause – let alone the fix – for a condition called colony collapse disorder (CCD). Meanwhile, the commercial beekeeping industry is struggling to provide pollination services to the nations' farmers. One-third of food crops rely on insect pollination." One of the most respected editors to follow honey matters, Kim Flotsam, reported in his March issue of "Bee Culture" that "incidences of colony losses to CCD and other stresses this spring have been much higher than the last two years, and some predict when all is said and counted, will be the worst year since the malady raised its ugly head." This assessment is consistent with the experiences of the AHPA membership.

The emergence of CCD shines a bright light on the inadequacies of current honeybee research, particularly on the lack of capacity to address new challenges and to take long-term steps to assure honeybee health. In saying this, we do not mean to diminish the vital, ongoing work of ARS and other honeybee scientists. They do their job and they do it very well. In recent years, however, honeybee research has become largely confined to four ARS laboratories that provide the first line of defense against exotic parasitic mites, Africanized bees, viruses, brood diseases, pests, pathogens and other conditions. Universities and the private sector have substantially scaled back their efforts due to a lack of available funds. Moreover, ARS laboratories lack sufficient resources even for current honeybee research priorities. For example, we understand that ARS currently lacks funds even to test high priority CCD samples that ARS scientists have already collected.

In past fiscal years, this Subcommittee has supported the beekeeping industry through funding for agricultural research activities. As you know, in the FY 2003 cycle, the Subcommittee rejected a proposal that would have resulted in the elimination of three ARS laboratories that are indispensable to the survival of our industry. Again, in the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress preserved funding for the Weslaco, Texas ARS research facility despite a recommendation in the President's FY 2009 budget proposal to close that facility. In FY 2010, the Congress increased funding by $1.5 million for the ARS labs and added $3 million for the work of the Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES), now known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Those were wise decisions. Without these labs, and without the work of other researches supported by federal funds, the American honeybee may not have survived the various above-mentioned threats, and the infrastructure would not exist today upon which an aggressive research campaign may continue to be built.

For FY 2011, President Obama has requested an additional $500,000 in increased funding for CCD research. We thank the President and we urge this Subcommittee to continue in its long demonstrated commitment to addressing the crises before us by supporting the President's request and adding desperately needed funding. However, we believe strongly that an increase of $500,000 does not come close to meeting the growing demands imposed by CCD and other threats to honeybee health. Instead, to meet the needs of the American beekeeper and to stave off a pending agricultural crisis for growers and consumers, we respectfully urge the Subcommittee to appropriate at least $3 million in additional funding for ARS laboratories and to achieve across the agencies a full $20 million in new research funds dedicated toward CCD and other honeybee health research projects. As you know, the 2008 Farm Bill included an authorization of $100 million over five years for such initiatives. A $20 million appropriation in FY 2011 would reflect that authorization, and would provide government, academic and private sector researchers with the vital resources needed to combat CCD and other emerging threats and assure long-term honeybee health. Such funding would be a prudent investment in the U.S. farm infrastructure, which, along with U.S. consumers, derives tens of billions of dollars of benefit directly from honeybee pollination. While we do not otherwise specify the locations of the labs where this research is to be performed, we do believe it is important that at least $500,000 be provided in support of the genome work done at the Baton Rouge lab on Russian bees that have developed a resistance to varroa mites.

I. The Importance of Honeybees to U.S. Agriculture

Honeybees are an irreplaceable part of the U.S. agricultural infrastructure. Honeybee pollination is critical in the production of more than 90 food, fiber, and seed crops and directly results in more than $15 billion in U.S. farm output. The role of pollination is also vital to the health of all Americans given the dietary importance of fruit, vegetables and nuts, most of which are dependent on pollination. Honeybees are necessary for the production of such diverse crops as almonds, apples, oranges, melons, blueberries, broccoli, tangerines, cranberries, strawberries, vegetables, alfalfa, soybeans, sunflower, and cotton, among others. In fact, honeybees pollinate about one-third of the human diet.

The importance of this pollination to contemporary agriculture cannot be understated. In fact, the value of such pollination is vastly greater than the total value of honey and wax produced by honeybees. More than 140 billion honeybees, representing 2 million colonies, are transported by U.S. beekeepers across the country every year to pollinate crops.

The importance of honeybees—and the U.S. honey industry which supplies the honeybees for pollination—is illustrated by the pollination of California's almond crop. California grows 100 percent of the nation's almond crop and supplies 80 percent of the world's almonds. Honeybees are transported from all over the nation to pollinate California almonds, which are the largest single crop requiring honeybee pollination. More than one million honeybee hives are needed to pollinate the 600,000 acres of almond groves that line California's Central Valley. Thus, nearly half of the managed honey-producing colonies in the U.S. are involved in pollinating California almonds in February and March of each year.

Many other U.S. agriculture producers require extensive honeybee pollination for their crops, including blueberry, avocado, and cotton growers. Cattle and farm-raised catfish industries also benefit from honeybee pollination, as pollination is important for growing alfalfa, which is fodder for cattle and farm-raised fish. As *OnEarth* magazine has noted, the fate of California's almond crop rests "on the slender back of the embattled honeybee." Over the past year, both beekeepers and almond growers have struggled to meet almond crop pollination demands, forced to bring inadequate bee supplies to the crops. Many expect that the almond crop will suffer noticeably this season as a result, an added drain on the United States economy at a time when we can least afford it.

II. Ongoing and New Critical Research

Since 1984, the survival of the honeybee has been threatened by continuing infestations of mites, pests and other conditions for which appropriate controls must continually be developed by scientists at the four ARS laboratories and other highly qualified research institutions. CCD, while the most severe, is only the most recent threat to the bee population. Unfortunately, the specific cause of CCD and treatments for it remain elusive to both beekeepers and scientists. The research is complex, as there are a wide range of factors that – either alone or in combination – may be causes of this serious condition. Areas for research include the stress from the movement of bees to different parts of the country for extensive commercial pollination, the additional stress of pollinating crops, such as almonds, that provide little honey to the bees, and the impact of certain crop pesticides and genetic plants with altered pollination characteristics. Continuing infestations of the highly destructive Varroa mite, combined with other pests and mites, are also thought to compromise the immune systems of bees and may leave them more vulnerable to CCD. At the same time, researchers will need to focus on the many reported instances in which otherwise healthy, pest-free, stationary bee colonies are also suffering collapse or problems with reproduction.

AHPA, other industry officials, and leading scientists believe that an important contributing factor in the current CCD crisis is the longstanding, substantial under funding of U.S. bee research. In recent years, the Federal Government has spent very modest amounts at each ARS Honeybee Research Laboratory — for a sector that directly contributes $15 billion per year to the U.S. farm economy. Worse still, funding amounts have not been increased to account for growing bee health concerns. USDA honeybee researchers remain under funded. As noted above, current funding shortages have caused important CCD-related bee samples to go untested. Additionally, despite their ability to provide significant and innovative new research on emerging bee threats, researchers in the academic and private sectors also lack the necessary financial resources for these vital tasks. With the emergence of CCD, there is a serious gap between the threats faced by U.S. honeybees and the capacity of our researchers to respond. Closing this gap will require significant new resources. It is estimated that each new scientist, technician and the support materials that they need will cost an additional $500,000 per year.

To address these challenges, the AHPA respectfully requests an appropriation of at least $20 million to combat CCD and conduct other essential honeybee research. These funds should be allocated in accordance with authorizations provided in the 2008 Farm Bill. Specifically, the funds should be divided among the following Department of Agriculture agencies and programs: (1) the four ARS Bee Research Laboratories for new personnel, facility improvement, and additional research; (2) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to conduct a nation-wide honeybee pest and pathogen surveillance program; (3)

the ARS Area Wide CCD Research Program divided between the Beltsville, MD and the Tucson, Arizona research laboratories to identify causes and solutions for CCD in affected states; (4) the NIFA to fund extension and research grants to investigate the following: honey bee biology, immunology, and ecology; honey bee genomics; native bee crop pollination and habitat conservation; native bee taxonomy and ecology; pollination biology; sub-lethal effects of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on honey bees, native pollinators, and other beneficial insects; the effects of genetically-modified crops, including the interaction of genetically-modified crops with honey bees and other native pollinators; honey, bumble, and other native bee parasites and pathogens effects on other native pollinators; and (5) the additional ARS research facilities in New York, Florida, California, Utah, and Texas for research on honey and native bee physiology, insect pathology, insect chemical ecology, and honey and native bee toxicology.

Since the beekeeping industry is too small to support the cost of needed research, publicly-funded honeybee research by the four ARS bee laboratories is absolutely key to the survival of the U.S. honey and pollination industry. For example, the pinhead-sized Varroa mite is systematically destroying bee colonies and prior to CCD was considered the most serious threat to honeybees. Tracheal mites are another contributing factor to the loss of honeybees. Tracheal mites infest the breathing tubes of adult honeybees and also feed on the bees' blood. The mites essentially clog the bees' breathing tubes, blocking the flow of oxygen and eventually killing the infested bees.

The industry is also plagued by a honeybee bacterial disease that has become resistant to antibiotics designed to control it, and a honeybee fungal disease for which there is no known treatment. These pests and diseases, especially Varroa mites and the bacterium causing American foulbrood, are now resistant to chemical controls in many regions of the country. Further, we have seen that these pests are building resistance to newly-developed chemicals more quickly than in the past, thereby limiting the longevity of chemical controls.

As previously mentioned, the cause or causes of CCD are unknown. Thus, pest, viral and bacterial disease research takes on added significance. First, pest, viral and bacterial disease research may itself provide insight into the discovery of CCD's root causes. Second, whether pests and bacterial diseases are directly a factor in CCD or not, they nonetheless continue to threaten bee population health and vitality. Given CCD's particularly devastating impact on bee populations, even greater emphasis must be placed on mitigating known threats in order to achieve the overall goal of ensuring adequate honey production and pollination capacity.

In addition to pest and bacterial disease research, the sequencing of the honeybee genome in 2006 at Baylor University has opened the door to creating highly effective solutions to bee health and population problems via marker-assisted breeding. Marker-assisted breeding would permit the rapid screening of potential breeders for specific DNA sequences that underlie specific desirable honeybee traits. The sequenced honeybee genome is the necessary key that will allow scientists to discover the important DNA sequences. Additional funding for the ARS research laboratory at Baton Rouge, in particular, will assure that this critically important work goes forward.

Because of the sequenced honeybee genome, it is now possible to apply molecular biological studies to the development of marker-assisted breeding of honeybees. Marker-facilitated selection offers the first real opportunity to transform the beekeeping industry from one that has been dependent upon a growing number of expensive pesticides and antibiotics into an industry that is free of chemical inputs and that is economically viable in today's competitive global marketplace. Additionally, this new sequencing capacity may prove central to identifying both the causes of and solutions to CCD. New pathogens have recently been identified in the United States that are thought to be associated with CCD.

Genetic research can be utilized to determine whether a comparative susceptibility to such pathogens exists among various bee populations, and if so, can serve to facilitate breeding with enhanced resistance.

The four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories work together to provide research solutions to problems facing businesses dependent on the health and vitality of honeybees. The key findings of these laboratories are used by honey producers to protect their producing colonies and by farmers and agribusinesses to ensure the efficient pollination of crops. Each of the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories (which are different in function from the ARS Wild Bee Research Laboratory at Logan, Utah) focuses on different problems facing the U.S. honey industry and undertakes research that is vital to sustaining honey production and assuring essential pollination services in this country. Furthermore, each of the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories has unique strengths and each is situated and equipped to support independent research programs which would be difficult, and in many cases impossible, to conduct elsewhere. Given the multi-factor research capacity needed to address the scourge of CCD, it is important that each research laboratory is permitted to continue and expand upon its unique strengths.

And while to date the four ARS Research Laboratories have been the backbone of American Honeybee research, we do not believe that those four facilities alone--even when fully funded--will have the capacity to meet today's research needs. This is why, after analyzing the new and serious threats to U.S. honeybees, Congress, representatives of the farm sector and leading researchers developed the research priorities that were incorporated into the 2008 Farm Bill. In addition to increased resources for ARS research, these experts pressed for new funding, through NIFA, for government, academic and private sector research. They also urged new bee surveillance programs through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to address the alarming lack of accurate information about the condition of U.S. bee colonies. Unfortunately, these programs are not yet funded to the level expected in 2008.

One particularly effective way of adding needed capacity and innovative expertise in the effort to ensure honeybee health would be to reinvigorate private sector and university bee research initiatives. For many years, these sectors played a vital role in honeybee research, and many leading universities have significant bee research capabilities. In recent years, non-federal agency research has substantially declined due to a lack of support for such initiatives. Funding the 2008 Farm Bill authorization of $10.26 million for the Department of Agriculture's NIFA would go a long way toward achieving this goal.

NIFA is tasked with advancing knowledge for agriculture by supporting research, education, and extension programs. Funds may be channeled through the Department to researchers at land-grant institutions, other institutions of higher learning, federal agencies, or the private sector. The requested funding for NIFA would provide important flexibility in allocating badly needed federal dollars among government, private sector and university researchers. The recipients would provide more widespread research on honeybee biology, immunology, ecology, and genomics, pollination biology, and investigations into the effects on honeybees of potentially harmful chemicals, pests, other outside influences, and genetically modified crops. The result of such funds would be to ensure flexible financing with a comprehensive plan for battling CCD, pests, and other ongoing and future honeybee threats.

Additionally, the same coalition of experts identified a need for a honeybee pest and pathogen surveillance program. Although significant data exists on American honey production, comparably less and lower quality data exists on beekeepers and bees. Providing $2.31 million under the 2008 Farm Bill authorizations to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture would allow the Department to utilize such data to better respond to pest and disease outbreaks, and to compile data that may better enable prediction of new threats. Given the roughly $15 billion added to the U.S. farm economy each year by honeybees, this is certainly a worthwhile investment in the honeybee and pollinator industry.

Finally, these longstanding and worsening threats have caused great strain on the American honeybee to the point where some U.S. honey producers have felt the need—for the first time in over eighty years—to import bees from New Zealand and Australia for pollination. Ironically, scientists and industry leaders have since concluded that there is likely a correlation between the introduction of foreign bees and the emergence of CCD, the newest and greatest challenge to the survival of American honeybees. While researchers continue in their exhaustive effort to isolate the specific causes of CCD, the AHPA strongly urges the Congress to work with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that exotic bees and the threats they pose are restricted from importation into the United States. Under current law, the Department of Agriculture has the duty to refuse a shipment's entry into the United States where the export certificate identifies a bee disease or parasite of concern to the United States or an undesirable species or subspecies of honeybee, including the Oriental honeybee or "Apis cerana" (7 CFR § 322.6(a)(2) (2004)). In the case of Australian honeybees, officials in that country have detected the presence of the Apis cerana honeybee throughout their country, a species known to harbor parasitic mites and possibly viruses that do not currently exist in the United States.

III. Conclusion

In conclusion, we wish to thank you again for your past support of honeybee research and for your understanding of the critical importance of these ARS laboratories. By way of summary, in FY 2011, the American Honey Producers Association strongly encourages at least $20 million in funding for CCD and other honeybee research spread among the four ARS Honeybee Research Laboratories, other ARS research facilities across the country, the NIFA at the Department of Agriculture, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Specifically, we urge at least an additional $3 million in funding for the ARS research laboratories in FY 2011, including a $500,000 increase for high priority, specialized genetic work with Russian bees to be performed at the Baton Rouge laboratory. AHPA also opposes importation of Australian honeybees. Only through critical research can we have a viable U.S. beekeeping industry and continue to provide stable and affordable supplies of bee-pollinated crops, which make up fully one-third of the U.S. diet. I would be pleased to provide answers to any questions that you or your colleagues may have.

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
SUBMITTED TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS – SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
March 10, 2010

Madam Chair and Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and the 32 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) that compose the list of 1994 Institutions, thank you for this opportunity to share our funding requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011.

This statement is presented in three parts: a) a summary of our FY 2011 funding recommendations, b) a brief background on Tribal Colleges and Universities, and c) an outline of the 1994 Institutions' plan for using our land grant programs to fulfill the agricultural potential of American Indian communities, and to ensure that American Indians have the skills and support needed to maximize the economic potential of their resources.

I. Summary of Requests

We respectfully request the following funding levels for FY 2011 for our land grant programs established within the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Rural Development mission area. In NIFA, we request: $8 million for the 1994 Institutions' competitive Extension grants program; $5 million for the 1994 Institutions' competitive Research grants program; a minimum of $3.342 million for the higher education equity grants; a $12 million payment into the Native American endowment fund; and in the Rural Development - Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP), that the TCU Essential Community Facilities Grants Program be retained and that $5 million be appropriated each year for the next five fiscal years to help the TCUs to address the critical facilities and infrastructure needs that increase their capacity to participate fully as land grant partners.

II. Background on Tribal Colleges and Universities

The first Morrill Act was enacted in 1862 specifically to bring education to the people and to serve their fundamental needs. Today, 148 years after enactment of the first land grant legislation, the 1994 Institutions, as much as any other higher education institutions, exemplify the original intent of the land grant legislation, as they are truly community-based institutions.

The Tribal College Movement was launched in 1968 with the establishment of Diné College, serving the Navajo Nation. Rapid growth of the TCU Movement soon followed, primarily in the Northern Plains region. In 1972, six tribally controlled colleges established the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to provide a support network for member institutions. Today, AIHEC represents 36 Tribal Colleges and Universities, nationwide - 32 of which compose the current list of 1994 Institutions located in 12 states. Our institutions were created specifically to serve the higher education needs of American Indian students in Indian Country. They serve many thousands of American Indian full- and part-time students and community members from over 250 federally recognized tribes.

The 1994 Institutions are accredited by independent, regional accreditation agencies and like all institutions of higher education, must undergo stringent performance reviews to retain their accreditation status. TCUs serve as community centers by providing libraries, tribal archives, career centers, economic development and business centers, public meeting places, and child and elder care centers. Despite their many obligations, functions, and notable achievements, TCUs remain the most poorly funded institutions of higher education in this country. The vast majority of the 1994 Institutions is located on federal trust territory. Therefore, states have no obligation, and in most cases, provide no funding to TCUs. In fact, most states do not even provide funds to our institutions for the non-Indian state residents attending our colleges, leaving the TCUs to assume the per student operational costs for non-Indian students enrolled in our institutions, accounting for approximately 21 percent of their student population. This is a significant financial commitment on the part of TCUs, as they are small, developing institutions and cannot, unlike their state land grant partners, benefit from economies of scale – where the cost per student to operate an institution is reduced by the comparatively large size of the student body.

As a result of 200 years of federal Indian policy - including policies of termination, assimilation and relocation - many reservation residents live in conditions of poverty comparable to those found in Third World nations. Through the efforts of TCUs, American Indian communities are availing themselves of resources needed to foster responsible, productive, and self-reliant citizens. It is essential that we continue to invest in the human resources that will help open new avenues to economic development, specifically through enhancing the 1994 Institutions' land grant programs, and securing adequate access to information technology.

III. 1994 Land Grant Programs—Ambitious Efforts to Economic Potential

In the past, due to lack of expertise and training, millions of acres on Indian reservations lay fallow, under-used, or had been developed through methods that caused irreparable damage. The Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 is addressing this situation and is our hope for the continued improvement of our reservation lands. Our current land grant programs remain small, yet very important to us. It is essential that American Indians explore and adopt new and evolving technologies for managing our lands. With increased capacity and program funding, we will become even more fundamental contributors to the agricultural base of the nation and the world.

Competitive Extension Grants Programs: In FY 2011, the 1994 Institutions' extension programs, which strengthen communities through outreach programs designed to bolster economic development; community resources; family and youth development; natural resources development; agriculture; as well as health and nutrition education and awareness, is our first priority for increased 1994 land grant program funding. Last year, $4,321,000 was appropriated for the 1994 Institutions' competitive grants for extension services. Without adequate funding the 1994 Institutions' ability to maintain existing programs and to respond to emerging issues such as food safety and homeland security, especially on border reservations, is severely limited. Increased funding is needed to support these vital programs designed to address the inadequate extension services that have been provided to Indian reservations by their respective state programs. It is important to note that the 1994 extension program is not duplicative of the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program, formerly known as the Extension Indian Reservation Program (EIRP) that is administered by state land grant institutions. Funding for the 1994 Land Grant programs is extremely modest. The 1994 Institutions have applied their resourcefulness for making the most of every dollar they have at their disposal by leveraging funds to maximize their programs whenever possible. Two examples of effective 1994 extension programs include: Extension activities at the College of Menominee Nation (Wisconsin) strengthen the sustainable economic development potential of the Menominee, Stockbridge-Munsee, Oneida, and Potawatomi Reservations and surrounding communities by increasing distance education capacity, conducting needs assessment studies, providing workshops and training sessions, and offering strategic planning assistance. The Agriculture & Natural Resources Outreach Education Extension program at Oglala Lakota College (South Dakota), which is located in one of the poorest counties in the nation, utilizes education to promote the environmentally sound used of agriculture and natural resources by Lakota people. The program coordinates activities between the college's Agriculture and Natural Resources department, reservation schools, other tribal departments, South Dakota State University, and county extension programs. Specific issues addressed by the program include poverty, isolation, health, cultural dissonance, and land use practices by Lakota landowners. *To continue and expand successful programs like these, we request that the Subcommittee support this competitive program by appropriating $8 million to sustain the growth and further success of these essential community-based extension programs.*

1994 Competitive Research Program: As the 1994 Institutions enter into partnerships with 1862/1890 land grant institutions through collaborative research projects, impressive efforts to address economic development through natural resource management have emerged. The 1994 Research Program illustrates an ideal combination of federal resources and TCU-state institutional expertise, with the overall impact being far greater than the sum of its parts. We recognize the severe budget constraints under which Congress is currently functioning. However, the $1,805,000 appropriated in FY 2010 is grossly inadequate to develop capacity and conduct necessary research at our institutions. The 1994 Research Program is vital to ensuring that TCUs may finally be recognized as full partners in the nation's land grant system. Currently, many of our institutions are conducting applied research, yet finding the resources to continue this research to meet their communities' needs is a constant challenge. This research authority opens the door to funding opportunities to maintain and expand the vital research projects begun at the 1994 Institutions, but only if adequate funds are secured and sustained. A total research budget of $1,805,000, for which all 32 of the 1994 Institutions compete, is vastly insufficient. Priority issue areas currently being studied at the 1994 Institutions include: sustainable agriculture and forestry; biotechnology and bioprocessing; agribusiness management and marketing; plant propagation, including native plant preservation for medicinal and economic purposes; animal breeding; aquaculture; human nutrition (including health, obesity, and diabetes); and family, community, and rural development. For example, the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, home to Sitting Bull College and located in North and South Dakota, is often characterized by high unemployment and health concerns. The college is conducting a research project to develop a natural beef enterprise on the reservation that will maximize use of existing natural resources, allow American Indian students to be actively involved in research and to produce a healthier agricultural product for the community. This project combines expertise from Sitting Bull College, North Dakota State University, and the USDA-ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory. *We strongly urge the Subcommittee to fund this program at a minimum of $5 million to enable our institutions to develop and strengthen their research capacity.*

1994 Institutions' Educational Equity Grant Program: This program is designed to assist 1994 Institutions with academic programs. Through the modest appropriations first made available in FY 2001, the TCU Land Grant Institutions have begun to support courses and to conduct planning activities specifically targeting the unique educational needs of their respective communities.

The 1994 Institutions have developed and implemented courses and programs in natural resource management; environmental sciences; horticulture; forestry; and food science and nutrition. This last category is helping to address the epidemic rates of diabetes and cardiovascular disease that plague American Indian reservations. *We request that the Subcommittee appropriate a minimum of $3,342,000 to* *allow the 1994 Institutions to build upon their course offerings and successful activities that have been launched.*

Native American Endowment Fund: Endowment installments that are paid into the 1994 Institutions' account remain with the U.S. Treasury. Only the annual interest yield, less the USDA's administrative fee, is distributed to the 1994 Institutions. The latest annual interest yield for the 1994 Institutions' Endowment was $3,822,753 and after the USDA NIFA claimed its standard four-percent administrative fee, $3,667,843 was distributed among the eligible 32 TCU Land Grant institutions by statutory formula. Once again, the administrative fee paid to USDA-NIFA to distribute the funds was larger than the amount paid to all but nine of the 1994 Institutions -- in other words the USDA-NIFA fee that is higher than the amount paid to 72 percent of 1994 Institutions!

Just as other land grant institutions historically received large grants of land or endowments in lieu of land, this endowment assists 1994 Institutions in establishing and strengthening their academic programs in such areas as curriculum development, faculty preparation, instruction delivery, and to help address critical facilities and infrastructure issues. Many of the colleges have used the endowment in conjunction with the Education Equity Grant funds to develop and implement their academic programs. As earlier stated, TCUs often serve as primary community centers and although conditions at some have improved substantially, many of the colleges still operate under less than satisfactory conditions. In fact, most of the TCUs continue to cite improved facilities as one of their highest priorities. Several of the colleges have indicated the need for immediate new construction and extensive renovations to replace buildings that have long exceeded their effective life spans and to upgrade existing facilities to address accessibility, modernization, and safety concerns.

Endowment payments appropriated increase the size of the corpus held by the U.S. Treasury and thereby increase the base on which the annual interest yield is determined for distribution to the 1994 Institutions. These additional funds would continue to support faculty and staff positions and program needs within 1994 agriculture and natural resources departments, as well as to help address the critical and very expensive facilities needs at these institutions. Currently, the amount that each college receives from this endowment is not adequate to address both curriculum development and instruction delivery, and completely insufficient to address the necessary facilities and infrastructure projects at these institutions. In order for the 1994 Institutions to become full partners in this nation's great land grant system, we need and, through numerous treaty obligations, are due the facilities and infrastructure necessary to fully engage in education and research programs vital to the future health and well being of our reservation communities. *We respectfully request the Subcommittee fund the FY 2011 endowment payment at $12 million – returning the payment amount to the pre across-the-board rescission level imposed on non-defense appropriated funding several years ago. Additionally, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to review the USDA-NIFA administrative fee and consider directing the department to reduce said fee for the Tribal College Endowment program so that more of these already limited funds can be utilized by the 1994 Institutions to conduct essential community-based programs.*

Tribal Colleges and Universities Essential Community Facilities Program (Rural Development): The President's FY 2011 Budget Request recommends eliminating the TCU Essential Community Facilities grant program. The reason stated for this drastic move is an ill-considered one. The administration has stated that the TCUs' grant program should be eliminated because they can participate in other programs offered in the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Programs (CFLGP). However, history indicates otherwise. Before the TCU-specific grant funding was made available, only three of the 32 TCU 1994

Institutions received awards under CFLGP. That constitutes successful participation by less than 10 percent of the eligible TCUs. By contrast, in FY 2001 when the TCU-specific program launched, 22 TCU Land Grant Institutions or almost 70 percent of the 1994 Institutions received grant awards. *We strongly urge the Subcommittee to reject the proposal to eliminate this critical program and to designate $5 million each year for the next five fiscal years to afford the 1994 Institutions the means to aggressively address critical facilities and infrastructure needs, thereby allowing them to better serve their students and their respective communities.*

IV. Conclusion

The 1994 Institutions have proven to be efficient and effective vehicles for bringing educational opportunities to American Indians and the promise of self-sufficiency to some of this nation's poorest and most underserved regions. The modest federal investment in the 1994 Institutions has already paid great dividends in terms of increased employment, access to higher education, and economic development. Continuation of this investment makes sound moral and fiscal sense. American Indian reservation communities are second to none in their potential for benefiting from effective land grant programs and, as earlier stated, no institutions better exemplify the original intent of the land grant concept than the 1994 Institutions.

We appreciate your support of the 1994 Institutions and recognition of their role in the nation's land grant system. We ask you to renew your commitment to help move our students and communities toward self-sufficiency. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the other members of the nation's great land grant system - a partnership with the potential to bring equitable educational, agricultural, and economic opportunities to Indian Country.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our funding proposals to the subcommittee. We respectfully request your continued support and full consideration of our Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations recommendations.

APPA

American
Public Power
Association

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20009-5715

Ph: 202.467.2900
Fax: 202.467.2910
www.APPAnet.org

Point of Contact: Amy Hille
202-467-2929
ahille@appanet.org

Statement
Of the
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION
Submitted to the
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
March 19, 2010

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 municipal and other state and locally owned utilities in 49 states (all but Hawaii). Public power utilities deliver electricity to one of every seven electricity consumers (approximately 45 million people), serving some of the nation's largest cities. However, the vast majority of APPA's members serve communities with populations of 10,000 people or less.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement outlining our FY 2011 funding priorities within the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Department of Agriculture: Rural Utility Service Rural Broadband Grants and Loans

APPA supports the Administration's efforts to provide funding in the amount of $418 million for the Rural Utilities Service Rural Broadband Grants and Loans. APPA believes it is important to provide incentives for the deployment of broadband to rural communities, many of which lack broadband service. Increasingly, access to advanced communications services is considered vital to a community's economic and educational development. In addition, the availability of broadband service enables rural communities to provide advanced health care through telemedicine and to promote regional competitiveness and other benefits that contribute to a high quality of life. Approximately one-fourth of APPA's members are currently providing broadband service in their communities. In addition, several APPA members are planning to apply for RUS broadband loans to help them finance their future broadband projects.

Department of Agriculture: Title IX Programs

APPA supports full funding of programs authorized in Title IX of the 2008 Farm Bill for energy efficiency, renewable energy and biofuels. APPA is extremely pleased that the President's budget provides an additional $39.3 million in addition to the $70 million in discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). In addition, we request the full authorized level of $5 million for the Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency program, and $5 million for the Community Wood Energy Program for FY 2011.

**AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY**

Public and Scientific Affairs Board

*Statement of the American Society for Microbiology
Submitted to the
House Appropriations Subcommittee
On Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
On the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation for the United States Department of Agriculture Science Programs*

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) science programs. The ASM is the largest single life science organization in the world with more than 40,000 members. The ASM mission is to enhance the science of microbiology, to gain a better understanding of life processes, and to promote the application of this knowledge for improved health and environmental well-being.

USDA supported scientific research strengthens food safety, water quality, agriculture production, clean energy, and animal and public health. The ASM endorses the Administration's proposed FY 2011 funding for the USDA's science and food safety programs, including $1.5 billion for the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and about $1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The ASM strongly endorses the proposed $429 million for the USDA's recently created NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) as an important step, but encourages Congress to fund AFRI at its fully authorized level of $700 million.

Agriculture in the United States produces $300 billion worth of products each year. USDA employees including, scientists, inspectors, educators, and regulatory experts, deliver public services through more than 300 programs here and abroad. Increased funding will strengthen programs focused on threats to the US food supply, as well as climate change and other environmental challenges facing our agribusiness sectors. Funding also will sustain the USDA support for basic and applied research at the nation's universities and land grant institutions.

The recently established, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, funds research, education, and extension activities that advance knowledge critical to US public health and our national economy. The USDA also formulated new food safety rules in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These science based actions align with the agency's FY 2011 strategy to focus USDA research on high impact solutions like radically improved food safety and innovations in biofuels and climate stress resistant crops. The ASM urges the Congress to recognize the importance of USDA science with strong FY 2011 funding levels.

Improving Food Safety and Security
The USDA is responsible for ensuring that our meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. These products, from both domestic and foreign sources, account for roughly 20 percent of the US food supply. There are innumerable possibilities for contamination within the massive system that feeds Americans, who spend nearly $1.2 trillion on food annually. Disease outbreaks from foodborne microbial pathogens persist as sporadic public health crises, and about 76 million new cases of food related illness are reported each year, with likely many more unreported. A new report estimates the total economic impact of US foodborne illness to be a combined $152 billion annually.

In 2007, and again in 2009, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) listed "revamping federal oversight of food safety" among its high risk areas demanding immediate federal attention and resources. Last September, another GAO report called for the FDA and USDA to close gaps in their collaborative oversight of imported foods. In 2009, the new Food Safety Working Group (FSWG) co-chaired by the Secretaries of the USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services recommended actions that will shape how USDA science affects future food safety standards. The proposed FY 2011 USDA budget would specifically address several key FSWG findings, including the development of better, high tech tools to reduce the prevalence of pathogens, as well as risk based methods for targeting inspections of USDA regulated products.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
The ASM supports the Administration's proposed $1.5 billion for the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. In 2009, the newly created NIFA replaced the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services (CSREES) program as the USDA's extramural research enterprise. Its principal responsibility is linking together a diverse nationwide collection of federal, state, and higher education entities involved in agriculture related research. Like its predecessor, NIFA supports new scientific discoveries and provides federal leadership in key areas including food safety, climate change, clean energy and public education.

The NIFA's mission is to fund projects at the state and local level through 60 target driven programs, which have been grouped by the USDA into a dozen national emphasis areas:

- Agricultural Systems
- Animals
- Biotechnology & Genomics
- Economics & Community Development
- Education
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Food, Nutrition & Health
- International
- Pest Management
- Plants
- Technology & Engineering
- Families, Youth & Communities

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

The ASM strongly supports the Administration's proposed budget for AFRI of $429 million, an increase of $166 million from FY 2010. AFRI, the nation's leading funding source for basic and applied sciences in agriculture, was created by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 as a competitive grants program for research, extension, and education activities. The ASM supports the end goal of funding AFRI to its fully authorized level of $700 million annually and stresses that a FY 2011 budget of $429 million is only a crucial first step.

Funding for AFRI will support critical USDA initiatives on biofuels, global climate change, international food security, food safety, and nutrition.

Through competitive, peer reviewed grants, AFRI promotes creative solutions across disciplines throughout the United States. Grants awarded in 2010 will be larger in size and longer in duration than previous CSREES awards, matching resources with the magnitude of challenges currently faced by agriculture.

USDA supported discoveries have significant health and economic impact. In 2009, researchers reported a protein in *Clostridium* bacteria that protects spores of the foodborne pathogen from heat and sodium nitrite, imparting resistance to common food hygiene techniques. *C. perfringens* is the second most common bacterial cause of foodborne illness in the United States, affecting as many as 250,000 people each year. A new poultry vaccine against *Campylobacter* bacteria, using genetically engineered *Salmonella* to induce antibodies in chicks, is under development. *Campylobacter* is the most common bacterial cause of US foodborne illness, infecting an estimated 2.4 million people annually. Contaminated poultry is a significant reservoir for human infection and, more importantly, infection by drug resistant strains of *Campylobacter*.

Multi year AFRI grants awarded in 2009 include projects to (1) sequence the genomes of Chlamydiaceae bacterial species that cause severe livestock diseases and significant annual economic losses, to inform drug and vaccine development; (2) determine the fate of antibiotic containing poultry litter applied to pastures as fertilizer, testing antibiotic levels in surface waters affected by runoff; and (3) develop a new soil-phosphorus index based on molecular biological and biochemical assays of soil microorganisms. Current AFRI funding opportunities for FY 2011 include projects in carbon cycle science and in risk assessment of biotechnology generated agricultural products.

Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
Since FY 2009, the ARS budget has decreased by more than a staggering thirteen percent. This disturbing trend is continued with the Administration's proposed FY 2011 budget for the ARS of $1.22 billion, a further 4 percent reduction from FY 2010. ASM strongly urges Congress to fund the ARS with at least $1.4 billion in FY 2011 to begin to regain the critical research capabilities lost with previous reductions.

The ARS is the Department's principal in house research component, with an 8,000 member workforce that includes 2,100 scientists from diverse disciplines. It maintains about 1,200 research projects at more than 100 US locations and four overseas laboratories. Its national research programs include food safety, global climate change, bioenergy, and food animal production, among others. To strengthen its own research efforts, ARS has a long history of partnering with commercial firms to transfer ARS technologies to the marketplace. Current ARS research projects include the following:

- Determine the dose-response relationships for botulinum neurotoxin (BoNT) and ricin in animal models; optimize sample preparation for recovery of toxins from food; and develop rapid tests for BoNT and ricin
- Identify natural compounds to improve activity of fungicides for treatment of apples; determine target genes to improve prevention of apple decay; develop early detection of pathogenic *Penicillium* on apples
- Apply genomics and bioinformatics methodologies to identify potentially usable traits of maize and grasses with biofuel applications

The ARS portfolio also utilizes international research partnerships to address global issues. Food safety and food security, for example, must be dealt with far beyond the United States, which imports 15–20 percent of its food supply and is vulnerable to migrating pathogens. Current collaborations include an Argentina study of immune responses to the virus that causes foot and mouth disease in cattle, to identify the genetic basis of why some animals are more resistant to disease; and the creation of a virtual Joint US - Sino Food Safety Research Center with Shanghai Jiao Tong University, to promote training and research programs in China and the cooperative development of new analysis methods like biomarker screening for Salmonella and other foodborne pathogens.

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
The ASM endorses the Administration's FY 2011 budget for USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service of $1.05 billion. Sufficient funding for the FSIS is crucial to successful oversight of the nation's food supply.

The FSIS provides the USDA regulatory force to ensure the safety of domestic and imported meat, poultry and egg products (liquid, frozen, and dried). It employs about 9,250 full time staff, including more than 8,500 deployed in the field. FSIS personnel inspect more than 6,280 federally regulated meat, poultry, and egg product plants in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the US Virgin Islands. In FY 2009, those facilities processed 150 million head of livestock and nine billion poultry carcasses.

The FSIS science-based inspection system, the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, emphasizes prevention and control of foodborne threats to public health. FSIS inspectors verify that individual food producers and processors meet HACCP requirements, determined by routine sampling of products for pathogens like *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. In FY 2009, FSIS personnel condemned more than 527 million pounds of poultry and 227,000 head of livestock during pre and post slaughter inspections. That year, more than 3.4 billion pounds of meat and poultry were presented to FSIS for import from 20 eligible countries, with 6.6 million pounds refused entry or rejected post inspection. Also in FY 2009, there were 71 recalls of FSIS regulated commercial products, totaling 9.5 million pounds; and 27 recalls were linked to contamination by *Listeria* and *E. coli* bacteria.

Education and Collaboration
The USDA is the lead federal agency for higher education in the food and agriculture sciences; in particular, NIFA's Office of Higher Education Programs links teaching, research and

extension activities. Its mission includes the training of food and agriculture scientists and other professionals. Ten percent of the AFRI budget is marked for USDA Strengthening Awards and postdoctoral fellowships. The proposed FY 2011 budget allocates up to $5 million for pre and postdoctoral grants, designed to create "a cadre of NIFA Fellows" as agriculture's next generation of scientists, educators, and practitioners. Many of the AFRI funded programs require that education and outreach activities be integrated with research components.

Fiscal support for USDA science yields benefits that reach far beyond the agency's immediate responsibilities. The agency routinely establishes collaborations with other federal agencies, state agencies, land grant universities, non profit organizations, professional societies, commodity groups and grower associations, private industry, the military, various foreign government and academic entities, and other groups. For example, FSIS participates in the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network with the FDA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and, with the FDA, is responsible for the Healthy People 2010 food safety objectives. In October, USDA agreed to help FDA personnel develop new safety rules for fresh produce. Last year, the FDA and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service created an online tool to help farmers and producers identify and fix vulnerabilities in their production processes. FSIS will partner with other government agencies to provide on-site expertise at the new Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center for Import Safety, recently opened in Washington, DC, by the US Customs and Border Protection agency.

The proposed FY 2011 USDA budget will support much needed improvements in the agency's ability to carry out its regulatory duties more efficiently and more quickly. Computing capabilities will be upgraded and expanded within key program areas like FSIS. The USDA expects to begin phased in implementation of its Public Health Information System (PHIS) in October, automating food safety verification and sampling procedures by FSIS personnel. PHIS will link in real time with the CDC's PulseNet human outbreak system, addressing in part the GAO's criticism of interagency gaps in federal food oversight.

Conclusion

The ASM urges Congress to increase research and education funding in the USDA budget, and provide at least $1.5 billion for NIFA, *at least* $429 million for AFRI, at least $1.4 billion for ARS, and $1 billion for FSIS.

Research in the agricultural and biological sciences is imperative to combat current and future threats to human, environmental, plant and animal health. The research supported by the USDA should be a priority that deserves steady, predictable and sustainable funding; the future of our agricultural systems, a basis for human health, relies on it.

The ASM appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony and would be pleased to assist the Subcommittee as it considers the FY 2011 appropriation for the USDA.

AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY

Public and Scientific Affairs Board

Statement of the American Society for Microbiology on the Food and Drug Administration Appropriation for FY 2011

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is pleased to submit the following testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The ASM is the largest single life science organization in the world with more than 40,000 members. The ASM mission is to enhance the science of microbiology, to gain a better understanding of life processes, and to promote the application of this knowledge for improved health and environmental well-being. The ASM recommends $2.857 billion for the FDA in FY 2011, a $495 million increase above the Agency's FY 2010 funding.

The ASM is pleased to see that the Administration's proposed FY 2011 FDA budget of $2.5 billion represents an increase of about 6 percent over FY 2010. This is noteworthy at a time when most funding for federal programs is being frozen or cut. We also appreciate that after years of chronic underfunding, the FDA budget has recently begun to recover. However, given the FDA's substantial role in protecting the American consumer, the ASM urges Congress to consider increasing the FDA's budget above that requested by the President to a level of $2.857 billion.

The FDA's expansive mission is to assure the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, the nation's food supply, cosmetics and products that emit radiation; to facilitate innovation in food safety and affordable medicine; and to provide the public with science based information to help Americans make wise choices and safeguard public health. Because of its oversight of drugs, biologics, foods and laboratory tests, FDA plays a critical role in the development and dissemination of medical countermeasures for biological, chemical and radiologic attacks. The agency's regulatory duties change along with domestic and global markets, consumer demographics and evolving foodborne pathogens, such as last year's intensified activities to prevent and treat H1N1 influenza. The agency has an enormous impact on the American economy, as it regulates 25 cents of every dollar spent by the average American each day.

Despite some recent improvements, serious deficiencies in FDA resources persist. These problems have been highlighted by several critical external reviews in recent years most prominently its own Science Board Report released in 2007, *FDA Science and Mission at Risk.* Products regulated by the FDA arrive from more than 150 countries, with nearly 20 million shipments of food, devices, drugs and cosmetics expected this year (compared to about 6 million ten years ago). Faced with a flood of consumer goods, the FDA's import inspectors (fewer than 500) typically examine only 1 percent of shipments at US ports of entry. The FDA's own science expertise has failed to keep up with innovations in product research and development. Outmoded computing also complicates oversight by the FDA. Informed by expert advice, the FDA is currently attempting to transform food safety, better protect patients from unsafe products and revitalize its own scientific enterprise. Important steps have been taken to upgrade information technology and management at the FDA. However, without more substantial increases in funding, the agency will barely keep up much less strengthen the scientific infrastructure that is so badly needed.

In the FY 2011 budget, the ASM believes that two areas need particular attention: one is to assure sufficient resources to continue efforts to transform agency approaches to food safety and the second is to enable FDA to implement new mechanisms to enhance scientific expertise and capacity in key areas.

Transforming Food Safety

The FDA needs additional resources to overhaul and modernize its food safety efforts. Regulation of the US food supply is a monumental challenge for the FDA foods program, which has responsibility for $417 billion worth of domestic food, $49 billion worth of imported food, and $62 billion worth of cosmetics per year. As a result, the FDA oversees about 156,000 registered US food establishments, 230,700 registered foreign facilities, and more than 3,500 cosmetic firms. In FY 2010, FDA projects a total of 20.5 million import lines under its jurisdiction, 47 percent of which are food products. Proposed budget increases would translate into an additional 159 foreign and 1,978 domestic inspections by new staff to be hired in FY 2011.

The ASM appreciates efforts made last year by the Congress and the Administration to improve the safety and security of the nation's food supply. The President's new Food Safety Working Group reaffirmed previous external reviews of FDA regulatory activities that supported upgrading food safety through a greater focus on prevention as a priority, better surveillance and enforcement capabilities, and improved response to identified threats.

While improvements are already evident, clearly much remains to be done. Multiple threats to our food supply persist, evidenced by not only last year's discoveries of contaminated peanut products, leafy green produce, shellfish and other foods, but also the large number of foodborne outbreaks that are never recognized or adequately investigated. Because of the under resourced food safety system, it is impossible to determine overall disease patterns or trends or to determine whether preventive measures are having their intended impact. Safe foods will always be among the nation's most basic public health needs. A strong FDA is critical to safeguard food from point of origin to each American consumer.

Advances in food safety require funding levels that can sustain long term efforts, such as the agency's wide ranging fight against *Salmonella* species that are responsible for more than a million illnesses each year and the leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States. *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) accounts for about 17 percent of all salmonellosis in humans, with shell eggs and broiler chickens the most common sources. One high priority FDA goal is to decrease, by the end of 2011, the annual number of illnesses and outbreaks linked to SE in this country by 10 percent. In July 2009, the FDA published its final rule on preventing SE in shell eggs, affecting production on farms, storage and transportation and requiring producers to maintain compliance records. The FDA expects the new regulation to prevent 79,000 cases of

SE associated foodborne illness and 30 deaths each year, with eventual annual savings in medical costs estimated to be $1.4 billion or more.

The FDA also continues to strengthen its collaborations with other government agencies, academic and industry entities and professional organizations, toward enhancing its own performance. Last year, the agency opened its Reportable Food Registry electronic portal, where food manufacturers are required to alert the FDA within 24 hours if they suspect a health threat is linked to their products. In the case of food product tracing, the agency announced in November its partnership with the USDA to expedite improvements in tracing specific foods throughout the supply chain, and solicited public input. A week later, CFSAN released a report on food product tracing that it had commissioned from the Institute of Food Technologists to help redesign its food surveillance. In FY 2009, the FDA awarded 83 grants worth $17.5 million to state and local groups to build food safety initiatives; for example, three states received funding for Food Protection Rapid Response Teams especially trained to respond to food hazard incidents. Grants support FDA's ongoing strategy to integrate food safety among federal, state, and local partners. This program needs to be expanded to additional states as quickly as possible.

Building FDA Science & Technology

The FDA's capacity in regulatory science, which underlies all agency activities, has been under great scrutiny since the FDA Science Board's highly critical 2007 review of FDA science and technology. There is an indisputable need for leading edge science and technology capabilities within the FDA to provide the careful review of today's innovative medical products and burgeoning food supply that the public expects and demands. Last year, the FDA approved the first DNA test for two specific human papillomaviruses, while other FDA researchers showed that a nanotechnology based test could detect anthrax bacteria in quantities 100 times lower than current tests. Both diagnostics rely on emerging technologies that certainly must be within a flexible FDA portfolio of scientific expertise.

The ASM applauds the Administration's $25 million budget request for advancing regulatory science, the first time that fiscal support has been explicitly designated for building FDA science. Solid science must be the basis for the numerous FDA rules and guidelines promulgated to industry here and abroad. The request includes funding for nanotechnology safety review, a stem cell initiative, and multi-faceted support for FDA's Critical Path Initiative and its new Office of Science and Innovation. However, the ASM believes more needs to be done in this area.

The FDA Science Board review of Science and Technology at FDA (*FDA Science and Mission at Risk, 2007*) found that the FDA mission was at risk for the following key reasons:

- The FDA scientific base has eroded and its scientific organizational structure is weak at a time when there have been major scientific advances and when new products and technologies under the regulatory authority are more scientifically complex.
- The FDA scientific workforce does not have sufficient capacity and capability.
- The FDA information technology (IT) infrastructure to support the scientific base is inadequate.

Food safety, just one mission area for the FDA, is an important case study demonstrating the urgent need to build regulatory science at the FDA. Food safety today is largely based on 1970-1980s science and 1950s regulation approaches. It is critical that policy, science and public health experts collaborate to identify where the science and practice of regulation is significantly limited for food safety and then develop and implement a strategic road map to mitigate these deficiencies. In some cases that will require the development and support for new technologies that have little to no commercial or academic value so they remain "orphan technologies" and in other cases it will require translating new science (industry, academic or government supported) into more effective regulations and then provide training for how to apply and enforce these new regulations.

The 2007 Science Board report recognized that the FDA is confronted by many such regulatory challenges and recommended the development of a FDA Centers of Excellence network to strengthen the science capability of the FDA and to discover solutions for complex problems such as food safety. At the time of its release the ASM strongly endorsed the recommendations of the Science Board report and believes that establishment of Academic Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science will rapidly and efficiently build FDA science capability and capacity through three types of activities: research and innovation, regulatory services and education. All the activities of the Centers of Excellence would be grounded in a well developed and disciplined applied research agenda in regulatory and information sciences.

Regulatory and information sciences are the foundation of the FDA's mission. Regulatory science is a broad term concerning drug, food and other product regulations, regulatory standards, law and procedures across many disciplines. It is a systemized body of knowledge (practiced by FDA and similar regulatory agencies worldwide) comprising public protection oriented medical product regulations, policy and decisions using scientific methods employing empirical and causal evidence utilized in the evaluation and approval of all the products that FDA regulates. The activities for which FDA needs such expertise are wide-ranging: the review and assessment of laboratory data; animal and human clinical data; methods development; facilities inspection; and development of technical and scientific standards for preclinical assessment, product development, postmarket surveillance, manufacturing, packaging standards, food safety standards and food processing technologies. FDA must have the scientific expertise, resources and collaborations to ensure that the regulatory scientific research priorities are addressed and that services will be delivered that provide a basis to: 1) Improve capacity for safety and efficacy evaluations and monitoring of candidate and licensed products, 2) Modernize current regulatory pathways, and 3) Develop new regulatory pathways where there are currently none.

The lack of new science capability or capacity places the FDA's mission at risk, and may actually stall progress in development of products at the leading edge of innovation. This compromises not only the public health mission since the agency cannot effectively regulate products built on emerging science, but it also compromises the agency's ability to support innovation in the industries and markets that it regulates. These logistical, technical and budgetary limitations will continue to constrain, rather than enable, the innovation on which advances in health care delivery and public safety depend.

The recognition that the FDA is a science based and ultimately science dependent organization is the basis for the 2007 Science Board report recommendation for the creation of a Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science within the agency and an external network of Centers of Excellence in regulatory and information science. A network of Centers of Excellence based in research intensive institutions could deliver the scientific and informatics expertise that will result in the tools, methods and information that the FDA requires to fulfill its mission. The network will provide opportunity for the FDA to harness the substantial potential of the academic sector where many of the innovations and early applications of emerging technologies are likely to occur. Each center might bring to the FDA a particular incremental expertise. For example, centers might add critical mass to the FDA mission by providing expertise in novel approaches to trial design; to the development of novel informatics tools or to various aspects of translational therapeutics wherein preclinical and clinical information studies are designed and integrated to enhance prediction of efficacy and safety of novel therapeutics. In addition to providing critically important access to safety data, patients, health outcomes, enabling technologies and process or technical expertise, the centers will enable targeting limited resources to the research priorities that are most relevant to the health and public safety challenges faced by the FDA. Importantly, these will allow the agency to address important safety issues and opportunities for disease intervention in a proactive rather than a reactive manner.

Our best estimate for the cost of the Centers of Excellence network is $650 million over five years, or $150 million per year. As a first step, the Administration and Congress should consider implementing the internal FDA Center ($70 million in FY 2011) and establishing at least four of the external Centers ($40 million or $10 million per center in FY 2011). The ASM encourages Congress and the Administration to begin the establishment of the Centers of Excellence network in FY 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FDA budget.

Statement of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies on Fiscal Year 2011 Funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Programs

Contact: Mary Lee Watts
Director of Science and Public Affairs
American Society for Nutrition
(301) 634-7112
Mwatts@nutrition.org

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and specifically, its research programs. ASN is the professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers, clinical nutritionists and industry to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition to promote human and animal health. Our focus ranges from the most critical details of research to very broad societal applications. **ASN respectfully requests $108 million in FY 2011 for the Human Nutrition Research program at the Agricultural Research Service. We request $500 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative in FY 2011, which is housed under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).**

Basic and applied research on nutrition, food production, nutrient composition, food processing and nutrition monitoring is critical to American health and the U.S. economy. Awareness of the growing epidemic of obesity and the contribution of chronic illness to burgeoning health care costs has highlighted the need for improved information on dietary intake and improved strategies for dietary change. Demand for a safer and more nutritious food supply continues to increase. Preventable chronic diseases related to diet and physical activity cost the economy over $117 billion annually, and this cost is predicted to rise to $1.7 trillion in the next ten years. Nevertheless, funding for food and nutrition research at USDA over the past two decades has neither kept pace with inflation, nor the growing complexity of our food supply and public health needs. This decline in our national investment in agricultural research seriously threatens our ability to sustain the vitality of food, nutrition and agricultural research programs and in turn, threatens the future of our economy and the health of our nation.

USDA historically has been identified as the lead nutrition agency and the most important federal agency influencing U.S. dietary patterns. Through the nutrition and food assistance programs, which form roughly 60 percent of its budget, USDA has a direct influence on the dietary intake (and ultimately the health) of millions of Americans. It is important to understand better the impact of these programs on the food choices, dietary intake, and nutritional status of those vulnerable populations which they serve. Research is the key to achieving this understanding and the foundation upon which U.S. nutrition policy is built.

USDA is in full or in part responsible for the development and translation of federal dietary guidance, implementation of nutrition and food assistance programs and nutrition education; and, national nutrition monitoring. The USDA Human Nutrition Research programs ensure nutrition policies are evidence-based, ensure we have accurate and valid research methods and databases, and promote new understanding of nutritional needs for optimal health.

ARS Human Nutrition Research Program
ASN's recommendation of $108 million for the Human Nutrition Research program at ARS is based on three major components: a requested increase by the President for specific projects, funding needs related to national nutrition monitoring, and stabilizing, in a graded fashion, funding for the six Human Nutrition Research Centers (HNRCs).

The President's Request
ASN strongly supports the President's budget request of an additional $6.75 million for the Human Nutrition Program under ARS. These dollars would be aimed at: supporting key research projects such as one studying whether and how American diets adhere to the Dietary Guidelines; bolstering the nutrition monitoring program, What We Eat in American (WWEIA); and, funding critical updates to www.nutrition.gov, which is maintained by the National Agricultural Library.

What We Eat in America survey
In addition to supporting the specific request made in the President's budget, ASN urges Congress to consider additional needs such as those of the What We Eat in America Survey (WWEIA). WWEIA is another example of the unique nutrition research at ARS. This program allows us to know not only what foods Americans are eating, but also how their diets directly affect their health. This survey is a partner to the National Health and Nutrition Examination and Survey (NHANES) that is run by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Information from the survey guides policies on food safety, food labeling, food assistance, military rations, pesticide exposure and dietary guidance. In addition to having an impact on billions of dollars in federal expenditures for nutrition assistance programs, the survey data leverages billions of private sector dollars allocated to nutrition labeling, food product development and production. For example, data collected through WWEIA provided critical information to the Institute of Medicine expert panel reviewing the WIC food package a few years ago. The panel's recommendations to USDA, based on these data, guided a revision of the food package. The changes have now been implemented and are having a positive influence on the nutritional intake of WIC participants.

Despite its enormous value and importance, WWEIA has been flat-funded at $11.5 million for over 14 years and is in jeopardy. While we are grateful that the President proposed $900,000 for the survey, it does not go far enough. The USDA budget for WWEIA should be increased two-fold to $23 million to make up for losses to inflation over the years and to ensure this program can remain a state-of-the-art, 21st century data collection effort. Otherwise, we risk losing this national treasure and the essential information it provides.

Setting the Stage for a Successful Future
USDA has built a program of human nutrition research housed in six HNRCs[1] geographically disperse across the nation and affiliated with the ARS, which links producer and consumer

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[1] Of the six HNRCs, three are fully administered by ARS and are located in Davis, CA, Beltsville, MD, and Grand Forks, ND. The other three are administered through cooperative agreements with Baylor University Medical Center in Houston, TX; Tufts University in Boston, MA; and, the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

interests and forms the core of our knowledge about food and nutrition. More than a decade of flat funding at ARS for this program seriously jeopardizes the future of the centers, their important research projects, and the critical infrastructure provided by the USDA from which the HNRCs and scientists benefit. These unique centers are working closely with a wide variety of stakeholders to determine just how specific foods, food components, and physical activity can act together during specific life-stages (e.g. prior to conception, in childhood, in older adult years) to promote health and prevent disease. The HNRCs are a critical link between basic food production and processing and health, including food safety issues. Moreover, the center structure adds value by fully integrating a multitude of nutritional science disciplines that cross both traditional university department boundaries and the functional compartmentalization of conventional funding mechanisms.

In addition to supporting the specific request made in the President's budget and additional support for WWEIA, ASN urges Congress to consider a renewed commitment to the Human Nutrition Research Centers program over the next five years that would lead to a doubling of its current budget to $180 million by FY 2015.

An important basic premise of research in the HNRCs is that many chronic diseases, such as diabetes and obesity, can be prevented by lifestyle issues, the most important of which are: consuming appropriate amounts of a well-balanced, healthful diet; and regularly engaging in adequate levels of physical activity. Using state-of-the-art facilities and a concentration of critical interdisciplinary scientific teams, the HNRCs are conducting the highest quality translational research. Also of importance are the long-term experiments involving the derivation of dietary reference intake values and nutrient requirements of individuals. Often compared to the intramural program at the National Institutes for Health, these centers tackle projects that are unlikely to be funded through other means, such as through competitive grants or by industry.

Flat-funding coupled with inflation has led to considerable funding deficits that threaten to compromise the Centers' abilities to continue their work at the level necessary to solve the significant nutrition problems facing our country. For example, the ARS HNRC located at Tufts University in Boston, MA has been flat-funded at $15 million since 2004. The Center today would need over $19 million in funding just to keep up with the costs of inflation over the past six years—a 28 percent increase! The other five centers have had similar flat-funding during this time period.

Beginning next year in FY 2012, the provision of approximately $18 million in additional funds each year would result in a budget by FY 2015 that is double that of today. By making this stepwise commitment to the Human Nutrition Research program, Congress would ensure that it, through the six HNRCs, can continue current research projects, plan for the future and restore purchasing power lost to inflation over a decade of flat budgets.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grants program

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 established the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a new competitive grants program authorized at $700 million annually, for research, extension, and education in support of our nation's food and agricultural systems within the newly-established National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) at USDA. This unique program, the successor to USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems (IFAFS), takes research and innovation beyond the development phase, into implementation through contemporary education and extension programs.

ASN is pleased that the NIFA has identified human nutrition and specifically, childhood obesity, as a top priority. AFRI includes programs aimed to improve the nation's nutrition and health which focus on two objectives: (1) improving human health by better understanding an individual's nutrient requirements and the nutritional value of foods; and (2) promoting research on healthier food choices and lifestyles. For example, USDA-funded projects funded by the Human Nutrition and Obesity program have led to a better understanding of the behavioral and environmental factors that influence obesity, and to the development and evaluation of effective interventions. Specifically, USDA competitive grants have funded nutrition education interventions focusing on the reduction of childhood obesity in low-income families.

ASN believes the program should be funded at its full authorization level of $700 million, but we understand that in the current fiscal climate, that is unlikely. However, with the nation and world facing unprecedented health, food security and nutrition challenges, now is the time to renew investment in our nation's agricultural research enterprise. We applaud the President's strong request of $429 million for the program with an additional $50 million for nutrition and obesity research, but urge Congress to take this a step further and fund AFRI at $500 million in FY 2011. Such funding will not only position the program to achieve its full funding as we approach the next Farm Bill, but it will provide America's agriculture, food and nutrition scientists, land managers and farmers with the tools necessary to solve problems and keep the country competitive, while also protecting the natural resource base and environment, enhancing human nutrition and fostering vibrant rural communities.

The AFRI and the Human Nutrition Research Program under ARS are synergistic programs equally important to the nutrition field, because together they provide both the infrastructure and the investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed research that generates new knowledge and allows for rapid progress towards meeting national dietary needs. These programs allow USDA to make the connection between what we grow and what we eat. And through strategic nutrition monitoring, we learn more about how dietary intake affects our health.

ASN thanks your Committee for its support of the ARS and the AFRI Competitive Grants Program. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Mary Lee Watts, ASN Director of Science and Public Affairs, at (301) 634-7112 or mwatts@nutrition.org.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Russell, MD
President, American Society for Nutrition

American Society of Agronomy | Crop Science Society of America | Soil Science Society of America
677 South Segoe Road • Madison WI 53711-1086 • Tel. 608-273-8080 • Fax 608-273-2021
www.agronomy.org • www.crops.org • www.soils.org

Karl Glasener
Director of Science Policy
American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Attention: ***Fiscal Year 2011 Public Witness Testimony for the Record***
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

RE: FY 2011 Appropriations—Support for the Agricultural Research Service; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dear Chairman Kohl, Ranking Member Brownback, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The **American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)** are pleased to submit the following funding recommendations for FY 2011. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA understand the challenges the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies faces with the tight budget for FY 2011. We also recognize that the Agriculture Appropriations bill has many valuable and necessary components. We applaud the Subcommittee's efforts to fund mission-oriented, critical research through the ***USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture***, the intramural research portfolio funded through the ***Agricultural Research Service*** as well as the conservation programs through the ***Natural Resources Conservation Service.***

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are particularly grateful to the Subcommittee for funding the ***Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)***, the largest competitive grants program for research, extension, education, and integrated programs within USDA's ***National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)***, at $262 million, bringing total ***NIFA*** funding to $1,486 million in the FY 2010 Omnibus Appropriations bill. In FY 2011, at a time when our nation needs to respond rapidly to challenges which threaten our ability to safely produce and distribute food, feed, fuel, and fiber, we find that it is essential to continue to build our competitive research programs. For this reason, we recommend funding ***NIFA*** at $1,560.3 million, a 5% increase over FY 10 enacted. We further recommend that ***AFRI be funded*** at $429 million in the FY 2011 agriculture appropriations bill. We believe that funding ***AFRI*** at this level would be a strong step in support of these important systems, enabling effective development and distribution of information which will achieve the dual goals of agricultural production and environmental stewardship, maximizing the benefits of agroecosystem processes.

For the ***Agricultural Research Service (ARS)***, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend a funding level of $1,364 million, a 7% increase over the FY 2010 enacted funding level. The ***ARS*** ensures that our nation has a safe, reliable, and adequate supply of high-quality food, feed, fiber, and fuel.

For the ***National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)***, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend a funding level of $1,560.3 million for FY 2011, roughly an 5% increase over FY 2010.

For FY 2011 of the ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a 7% increase over FY 2010 enacted for a funding level of $10,842.3 million.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
ASA, CSSA, and SSSA applaud the ***Agricultural Research Services' (ARS)*** ability to respond quickly to rapidly changing national needs. ***ARS's*** 2,100 scientists located at 100 research locations accomplish scientific discoveries that help solve problems in crop and livestock production and protection of human nutrition, and ensure a sustainable interaction of agriculture and the environment. ***ARS National Programs*** focus on the importance, impact, and quality of ***ARS*** research in 1) Nutrition, Food Safety/Quality, 2) Animal Production and Protection, 3) Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, and 4) Crop Production and Protection. Increasingly, ***ARS***, through ***Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA)s***, forms partnerships with federal laboratories and businesses that help move new technologies to the marketplace. These partnerships are especially important to leverage during a time when our nation's economy remains vulnerable and federal funding is constrained. Such cooperative research helps foster American businesses and enhances the position of the U.S. as a global leader in food, feed, fiber, and fuel production.

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that research from ***ARS*** programs and technology transfer ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, help to sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. Again, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend an ***ARS*** funding level of $1,364 million for FY 2011, a 7% increase above the FY 2010 enacted.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Formula Funding: ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that the need has never been greater to enhance investment in ***Hatch*** and ***McIntire-Stennis*** formula funding. Therefore, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend that both ***Hatch*** and ***McIntire-Stennis*** receive a 10% increase over the FY 2010 enacted level of funding, bringing the combined funding level to $268.4 million for FY 2011. If we are to maintain the research capacity at our nation's Land Grant Universities and Colleges of Agriculture necessary to keep American agriculture competitive, while recognizing the potential of our managed systems to provide beneficial ecosystem services, we need concerted investment in our institutions.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative *(AFRI):* ASA, CSSA, and SSSA strongly endorse a ***64% increase in funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.*** The AFRI, established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), is the successor to USDA's National Research Initiative (NRI) and the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food

Systems (IFAFS). ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that funding ***AFRI*** at $429 million in the FY 2011 agriculture appropriations bill (exclusive of any funding identified for Section 406 programs) will show a strong commitment to America's farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

Bioenergy Feedstock Research: ASA, CSSA, and SSSA applaud Congress for including $118 million in mandatory funding during the life of the FCEA for the ***Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI)***. We are excited about the mandatory funding of the USDA portion of ***BRDI*** at $30 million for FY 2011 and suggest that an additional $5 million in discretionary funds be placed towards this critical program for FY 2011.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Programs: ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find the ***SARE Professional Development Program*** to be an effective program and support funding for the program at $4.9 million for FY 2011. Additionally, we urge the Subcommittee to consider an increase to bring ***SARE*** funding to $20.9 million for FY 2011. We also support an additional $10 million for Sustainable Agriculture Federal-State Matching Grants through the research and development account.

Higher Education: ASA, CSSA, and SSSA urge the Subcommittee to fund the Higher Education Grants at $55.6 million for FY 2011.

Cooperative Extension Service: Extension forms a critical part of research, education and extension program integration, a feature unique to ***NIFA***. Unfortunately, recently the ***Smith Lever 3(b) and 3(c)*** account has been flat-funded (in constant dollars this account has seen a gradual erosion in funding). ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support $327.25 million in appropriations for FY 2011, a 10% increase over FY 2010 enacted for the continuing education and outreach activities supported by ***Smith-Lever Formula 3(b) & (c).***

New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE): ***eXtension*** is a national web-based information and education delivery system that provides direct public access to science-based educational resources. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA find that internet-facilitated outreach through ***eXtension*** and other ***New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE) programs*** provide invaluable consolidation and streamlining of information. These communication technologies help to highlight appropriate management, expediting the voluntary adoption of best practices. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA recommend a 10% increase in appropriation for FY 2010 for this program, bringing funding to $2.2 million.

Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program (Section 406): ***Section 406*** was initially authorized in ***Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998***. Since its inception this program has proven to be an indispensible part of water and pest management, as well as numerous other issues. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a funding increase of 10% for programs under ***Section 406***, which would bring total funding to $50 million. Furthermore, we strongly suggest that the ***International Science and Education (ISE)-Grants Program*** also receive a 7% increase, bringing ***ISE*** funding to $3.1 million for FY 2011.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: For FY 2011 funding for the ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA support a 7% increase over FY 2010 enacted for a funding level of $4,260.7 million.

Conservation Security Program: The ***Conservation Security Program*** provides financial and technical assistance to producers who advance the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant, and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA applaud Congress for passing the FCEA which keeps this important working lands conservation program as an uncapped mandatory program.

In Summary

A balance of funding mechanisms, including intramural, competitive and formula funding, is essential to maintain the capacity of the United States to conduct both basic and applied agricultural research to improve crop and livestock quality, and deliver safe and nutritious food products, while protecting and enhancing the nation's environment and natural resource base. In order to address these challenges and maintain our position in an increasingly competitive world, we must continue to support research, education and extension programs funded through the ***Agricultural Research Service*** and ***National Institute of Food and Agriculture*** and conservation programs supported by the ***Natural Resources Conservation Service***. Congress must enhance funding for the programs to ensure that Americans have access to a safe and nutritious food supply and to provide for the next generation of research scientists, extension agents, and educators. According to the USDA Economic Research Service (Agricultural Economic Report Number 735), publicly-funded agricultural research has earned an annual rate of return of 35%. This rate of return suggests that additional allocation of funds to support research in the food and agricultural sciences would be highly beneficial to the U.S. economy. Finally, we must ensure support for *NIFA*-funded extension programs to guarantee that these important new tools and technologies reach and are utilized by producers and other stakeholders.

As you lead the Congress in deliberation on funding levels for agricultural research, extension, education, and conservation programs, please consider **American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America** as supportive resources. We hope you will call on our membership and scientific expertise whenever the need arises. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our requests. For additional information or to learn more about the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America (ASA-CSSA-SSSA), please visit www.agronomy.org, www.crops.org or www.soils.org or contact ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Science Policy Karl Glasener (kglasener@agronomy.org, kglasener@crops.org, or kglasener@soils.org) or 202-408-5382.

Additional information about ASA, CSSA, and SSSA

With more than 25,000 members and certified professionals, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are the largest life science professional societies in the United States dedicated to the agronomic, crop and soil sciences. ASA, CSSA, and SSSA play a major role in promoting progress in these sciences through the publication of quality journals and books, convening meetings and workshops, developing educational, training, and public information programs, providing scientific advice to inform public policy, and promoting ethical conduct among practitioners of agronomy and crop and soil sciences.

ASA and SSSA certified professionals—Certified Crop Advisers (CCA), Agronomists (CPAg) and Soil Scientists (CPSS)—are specialists who work in the field with farmers, providing technical advice about the agronomic practices—types and rates of fertilizer application, plant hybrid and variety selection, soil conservation, nutrient management, and integrated pest management—most appropriate to optimize crop yield and minimize environmental impact.

ASCE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Washington Office
101 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Suite 375 East
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 789-7850
Fax: (202) 789-7859
Web: http://www.asce.org

Testimony of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011
for the United States Department of Agriculture
before the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
March 19, 2010

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Members of the Subcommittee:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is pleased to offer this testimony on the President's proposed budget for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Fiscal Year 2011. **ASCE respectfully requests that this Subcommittee increase the Administration's proposed appropriation from $40 million to $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program.**

ASCE was founded in 1852 and is the country's oldest national civil engineering organization. It represents more than 144,000 civil engineers in private practice, government, industry and academia who are dedicated to the advancement of the science and profession of civil engineering. ASCE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and professional society.

The Administration's proposed FY 2011 budget includes $40 million in discretionary appropriations to fund rehabilitation of unsafe and seriously deficient dams that were originally constructed under USDA Watershed Programs. Due to the funding freeze that has been instituted the appropriations request is the same as was appropriated by Congress in FY 2010 and slightly below the funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, which supported more than two dozen projects across 11 states.

ASCE respectfully requests that this Subcommittee increase the Administration's proposed appropriation from $40 million to $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program. This amount is $120 million less than the total $185 million in authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill which includes both mandatory and discretionary funding for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Additionally, ASCE has deep concerns with the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2011 budget for the USDA Watershed Program (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program). The 2011 budget proposes to terminate all funding for this important program after supplying it with nearly $300 million in the Recovery Act. The funds provided by the Recovery Act supported over 195 projects in 36 states and provided a countless number of jobs during a time when unemployment numbers are the highest they have been in decades.

The President's budget proposes $0 for watershed planning, $0 for watershed operations and only $40 million for rehabilitation of aging dams. The Administration's recent funding requests are not in touch with the reality of the documented demand for the program. **ASCE urges you to support adequate funding for the complete Watershed Program so that important work can continue that will protect our citizens and our natural resources.**

Of the 84,000 dams in the United States, 89 percent are regulated by the states. Approximately 11,000 of these dams are small watershed structures built under the United States Department of Agriculture programs authorized by Congress beginning in the 1940s (primarily the Flood Control Act of 1944, PL78-534 and the Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act of 1953, PL83-566). By the year 2020, more than 85 percent of all dams in the United States will be more than 50 years old, the typical useful lifespan.

THE URGENT NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION

The benefits from the nation's improved watershed dams are enormous. The dams provide downstream flood protection, water quality, irrigation, local water supplies and needed recreation. Yet these benefits to lives and property are threatened. The small watershed dams are approaching the end of their useful lives as critical components deteriorate. The reservoirs become completely filled with sediment, downstream development increases the potential hazards and significantly changes the design standards, and many dams do not meet state dam safety standards.

Although these dams were constructed with technical and financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture, local sponsors were then responsible for operation and maintenance of the structures. Now these dams are approaching the end of their useful lives, yet the resource need is still great. The flood control benefits, the irrigation needs, the water supply, the recreation and the conservation demands do not end. In fact, they are more necessary than ever as downstream development has dramatically increased the number of people, properties and infrastructure that are protected by the flood control functions of these dams. The Federal government has a critical leadership role in assuring that these dams continue to provide critical safety and resource needs.

The NRCS in the Department of Agriculture has estimated the cost of rehabilitating the small watershed dams at over $500 million. While the average rehabilitation cost per dam is approximately $242,000, the local sponsors typically do not have sufficient financial resources to complete these necessary repairs to assure the safety and critical functions of these dams. The Federal government must recognize the urgent need to provide assistance to maintain these dams. Congress should reinforce its earlier commitment to the goals of the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1953.

Since the program began, there have been 163 watershed rehabilitation projects initiated across the country, which include 77 completed rehabilitation projects and 81 projects either in the planning, design or construction phase. It is clear from these 163 projects how successful this USDA program is. For example, in Albuquerque, New Mexico the Piedra Liza Dam had shown deficiencies within the dam and if it failed would have adversely affected nearly 1,700 residents. The county applied to the NRCS Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program for assistance in 2005 and by 2007 the repairs has been completed.

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

ASCE views the funding of dam safety repairs as a critical need for the nation. **In ASCE's 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure dams received a grade of D.** Over 3,000 unsafe dams have been identified in this country and many of the owners do not have sufficient funding sources. Additionally, thousands more dams still need to be rehabilitated: 1,065 watershed dams have already exceeded their design life and by 2015 an additional 4,300 dams will have exceeded their design life. Finally, 1,000 dams need to be rehabilitated due to stricter dam safety standards as a result of downstream development greatly increasing the consequences of a dam failure.

More than 1,000 watershed dams across the nation will need rehabilitation in just the next five years at a cost of over $570 million. These numbers will increase as dams get older and thousands of people and millions of dollars of property could be at risk if these dams should fail. That is why Congress authorized $185 million for rehabilitation for 2008- 2012 in the last Farm Bill. With these funds the NRCS estimates performing 400 dam assessments, processing 250 local sponsor requests for assistance, developing 200 rehabilitation plans, completing 170 designs, and rehabilitating 120 watershed dams in FY 2009 – 2012. Local watershed project sponsors provide 35 percent of the cost of the rehabilitation projects and many have local cost-share funds ready for projects that could be lost if the federal money isn't made available.

Many of these urgent repairs and modifications are needed because of the following: downstream development within the dam failure flood zone, replacement of critical dam components, inadequate spillway capacity due to significant watershed development and increased design criteria due to downstream development.

Many of the small watershed dams do not meet minimum state dam safety standards and many that are being counted on for flood protection can no longer provide flood protection due to excessive sedimentation and significant increases in runoff from development within the watershed. The dams suffer from cracked concrete spillways, failing spillways, inoperable lake drains and other problems that require major repairs that are beyond the capability of the local sponsors.

THE COST OF NO ACTION

These small watershed dams have been a silent and beneficial part of the landscape. Small watershed dam projects have provided an estimated $1.5 billion in annual benefits in reduced flooding and erosion damages, recreation, water supplies, and wildlife habitats. However, the failure to make the necessary upgrades, repairs and modifications will increase the likelihood of dam failures. Continued neglect of these structures may easily result in reduced flood control capacity causing increased downstream flooding. Failure of a dam providing water supply would result in a lack of drinking water or important irrigation water.

The recent dam failures in Hawaii and Missouri have brought into tragic focus for the public the impact aging and under-funded dams can have on a community. The failure to act quickly will clearly result in continued deterioration and a greater number of unsafe dams until a dam failure disaster occurs.

Completion of the needed repairs will result in safer dams, as well as continued benefits. Failure to establish a mechanism to reinvest in these structures will greatly increase the chances of dam failures and loss of benefits, both having significant economic and human consequences. Costs resulting from flood damage and dam failure damage are high and unnecessarily tap the Federal government through disaster relief funds or the National Flood Insurance Program.

RECOMMENDATION

ASCE asks that the Subcommittee view funding the Rehabilitation of Watershed Dams as a significant re-investment in the benefits of the program and an investment in the safety of these dams. **Therefore, ASCE respectfully requests that this Subcommittee provide additional appropriations beyond the Administration's request of $40 million for FY 2011 by appropriating $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program. Additionally, ASCE requests that the Subcommittee support adequate funding for the complete Watershed Program so that important work can continue that will protect our citizens and our natural resources.**

The condition of our nation's dams, specifically the need for watershed structure rehabilitation, should be a national priority before we have to clean up after dam failures that we know are likely to happen if nothing is done.

American Society of Plant Biologists

Official Written Testimony for Fiscal Year 2011 Budget
Submitted to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Submitted by
Dr. Tuan-hua David Ho, President, American Society of Plant Biologists
&
Dr. Gary Stacey, Chair, Public Affairs Committee, American Society of Plant Biologists

March 19, 2010

On behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) we submit this statement for the official record in support of increased funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, specifically funding the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative at the requested level of $429 million. This testimony highlights the importance of biology, particularly plant biology, as the nation seeks to address vital issues including a sustainable food supply, climate change and energy security. We would like to thank the Subcommittee for its consideration of this testimony and for recognizing that its support of agricultural research is an important investment in America's future.

ASPB is an organization of more than 5,000 professional plant biologists, educators, graduate students, and postdoctoral scientists. A strong voice for the global plant science community, our mission – which is achieved through engagement in the research, education, and public policy realms – is to promote the growth and development of plant biology and plant biologists and to foster and communicate research in plant biology. The Society publishes the highly cited and respected journals *Plant Physiology* and *The Plant Cell*, and it has produced and supported a range of materials intended to demonstrate fundamental biological principles that can be easily and inexpensively taught in school and university classrooms by using plants.

Food, Fuel, Climate Change, and Health: Plant Biology Research and America's Future

Plants are vital to our very existence. They harvest sunlight, converting it to chemical energy for food and feed; they take up carbon dioxide and produce oxygen; and they are almost always the primary producers in the Earth's ecosystems. Indeed, plant biology research is making many fundamental contributions in the areas of fuel security and environmental stewardship; the continued and sustainable development of better foods, fabrics, and building materials; and in the understanding of basic biological principles that underpin improvements in the health and nutrition of all Americans. To go further, plant biology research can help the nation both predict and prepare for the impacts of climate change on American agriculture, and it can make major contributions to our nation's efforts to combat global warming.

In particular, plant biology is at the center of numerous scientific breakthroughs in the increasingly interdisciplinary world of alternative energy research. For example, interfaces among plant biology, engineering, chemistry, and physics represent critical frontiers in both basic biofuels research and bioenergy production. Similarly, with the increase in plant genome sequencing and functional genomics, the interface of plant biology and computer science is essential to our understanding of complex biological systems ranging from single cells to entire ecosystems.

Plant biology also has much to offer to our basic understanding of biology. Many common biological problems can best be addressed using plants. For example, plants cells are totipotent and, unlike animal cells, can be regenerated to whole plants. Many genetic studies are best done in plants due to the ability to analyze large numbers of individuals. Fundamental biological discoveries (e.g., the discovery of gene silencing) derive from initial studies in plants.

Despite the fact that plant biology research – the kind of research funded by USDA– underpins so many vital practical considerations for our country, the amount invested in understanding the basic function and mechanisms of plants is relatively small when compared with the impact it has on multibillion dollar sectors of the economy like energy, agriculture, health and nutrition.

Recommendations

ASPB is in an excellent position to articulate the nation's plant science priorities as they relate to agriculture. Our recommendations are as follows:

- It is ASPB's hope that USDA will have an elevated role to play as part of the expanding federal research landscape. USDA already funds research that is intended to provide a foundation for creating sustainable food and new energy supplies; however, much higher investment in competitive funding is needed if the nation is to continue to make ground-breaking discoveries. *ASPB strongly encourages the appropriation of at least the requested level of $429 million in FY 2011 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). ASPB encourages efforts to fully fund AFRI at the $700 million level, as currently authorized in the Farm Bill. This is justified since AFRI will play a vital role in maintaining America's food and energy security through funding innovative research.*

- There are clear opportunities to use biological systems to ameliorate and respond to climate change, such as through carbon sequestration or modification of plants to resist environmental stress. *Therefore, ASPB calls for additional funding focused on studies of the effect of climate change on agricultural cropping systems, basic studies of its effects* *on plant growth and development, and targeted research focused on modification of plants to resist climate change and for use in carbon sequestration.*

- Current estimates predict a significant shortfall in the needed scientific and engineering workforce as the demographics of the US workforce change. For example, there is a clear need for additional scientists in the areas of interdisciplinary energy research and plant breeding. USDA has not traditionally been a major funding agency for education and training, other than that which occurs through the funding of individual investigator and center grants. So ASPB applauds the pending inauguration of the NIFA Fellows program. *However, given the expected need for additional scientists and engineers who are well-grounded in agriculture research and development activities, ASPB calls for increased funding of specific programs (e.g., training grants and fellowships) that are targeted to provide this needed workforce over the next 10 years and to adequately prepare these individuals for careers in the agricultural research of the future.* It should be noted that this recommendation is directly in-line with the findings of the recently published National Research Council (NRC) report entitled "A New Biology for the 21st Century: Ensuring the United States Leads the Coming Biology Revolution."

- Considerable research interest is now being paid to the use of plant biomass for energy production. However, if crops are to be used to their full potential, considerable effort must be expended to improve the understanding of their basic biology and development, as well as their agronomic performance. *Therefore, ASPB calls for additional funding that would be targeted to efforts to increase the utility and agronomic performance of bioenergy crops.*

- The launch of NIFA in 2009 brought to the table numerous representatives from Federal research agencies such as the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health that welcomed the new research structure at USDA. With NIFA now in place, USDA should be able to cultivate stronger interagency relationships (as well, potentially, as relationships with private philanthropies) and take on bolder new initiatives to address grand challenges related to food, energy, the environment, and health. *Although ASPB is excited to see this new research infrastructure take shape, ASPB wants to ensure that USDA remains committed to individual grantees, in addition to group awards and larger multi-institution partnerships. Truly paradigm shifting discoveries cannot be predicted and can only be insured by maintaining a broad, diverse, and robust research agenda.*

- The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) provides vital research to serve USDA's mission and objectives and the nation's agricultural research needs. As USDA begins to transform its extramural research programs through NIFA, *ASPB asks that the parallel reorganization of the agency's intramural research programs around the five core challenges identified by the USDA be carried out with due care and diligence. Indeed, ASPB supports continued robust funding for ARS.*

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on behalf of the American Society of Plant Biologists. Please do not hesitate to contact the American Society of Plant Biologists if we can be of any assistance in the future. For more information about the American Society of Plant Biologists, please see www.aspb.org.

Dr. Tuan-hua David Ho
President
American Society of Plant Biologists
Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Dr. Gary Stacey
Chair, Public Affairs Committee
American Society of Plant Biologists
The University of Missouri, Columbia

Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 • www.awionline.org
telephone: (202) 337-2332 • facsimile: (202) 446-2131

Testimony Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Regarding Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations

Cathy Liss, President

March 19, 2009

We welcome this opportunity to submit testimony in support of funding for animal welfare-related activities within the U.S. Department of Agriculture and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

USDA/APHIS/Animal Care/*Animal Welfare Act* (AWA) Enforcement
AWI Request: $23 million (near-level funding)

Over the past decade, the Subcommittee has responded to the urgent need for increased funding for the Animal Care (AC) division to improve its inspections of nearly 16,000 sites, including animal dealers, commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, to ensure compliance with AWA standards. Animal Care now has 115 inspectors (with two vacancies), compared to 64 inspectors at the end of the 1990s. During FY09, they conducted 13,948 inspections, including required annual visits to all research facilities that alone house over 1 million animals (excluding birds, rats, and mice). Moreover, AC inspectors engaged in extended and more time-consuming follow-up with licensees regarded as problems because of the nature and frequency of their violations.

It is important to sustain the progress that has been made. This budget request of $23 million provides a minimal increase over FY10 to cover pay costs as well as the added responsibilities associated both with the growing number of licensed/registered facilities, and with enforcing the Congressional ban on imports from foreign puppy mills.

APHIS/Animal Care/*Horse Protection Act* (HPA) Enforcement
AWI Request: Support Administration's Request for $900,000

The goal of the *Horse Protection Act*, passed in 1970, is to end the cruel practice of soring, by which unscrupulous owners and/or trainers primarily of Tennessee Walking Horses intentionally inflict pain on the legs and hooves of horses, through the application of chemical and mechanical irritants, to produce an exaggerated gait. In 2008, the American Association of Equine Practitioners condemned soring as "one of the most significant welfare issues faced by the equine industry." Three Girl Scouts bravely documented the brutality of this crime in their video "See it through my eyes." (Available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqFeYu1CrjU)

Throughout its history, however, the law has been openly flouted and inadequate funding has hampered enforcement. USDA inspectors are able to attend less than 6 percent of Tennessee Walking Horse shows. Consequently, there is continued reliance on an industry-run system of certified Horse Industry Organization (HIO) inspection programs that utilize Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs), usually industry insiders with a history of looking the other way. Reliance on DQPs has been an abysmal failure. Statistics clearly indicate that the presence of

USDA inspectors at shows results in a far higher rate of noted violations than occurs when DQPs are present. The greater the likelihood of a USDA inspection, the greater the deterrent effect on those who routinely sore their horses. Enforcement of this law should not be entrusted to individuals with a stake in the status quo.

USDA is to be commended for seeking to do a more rigorous job of enforcement than has been done in the past. For instance, in 2009, inspectors cited twice as many violations at the largest show, the National Celebration, as in the previous year. However, the top three winning horses at the Celebration were afterwards found to have been in apparent violation of the HPA.

Given the problems as outlined above and in separate, more detailed testimony signed by AWI and many other groups (www.awionline.org/hpa), it is clear that USDA cannot make progress in this area with current funding levels. We ask that Congress appropriate the $900,000 for HPA enforcement as provided in the Administration's budget. This sum would allow government oversight at many more horse shows and greater investment in technologies (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry and thermography) that improve detection of sored horses. It should be noted that in FY 2007, the use of GC/MS, which detects foreign substances used to sore horses, resulted in positive findings in 50 percent of the animals tested.

APHIS / Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES)
AWI Request: $15 million

IES handles investigations related to enforcement of the laws and regulations for APHIS' programs, which involves collection of evidence; both civil and criminal investigations; and investigations carried out in conjunction with federal, state and local enforcement agencies. In addition, IES, in collaboration with USDA's Office of the General Counsel, handles other types of enforcement actions including stipulations and formal administrative proceedings. We respectfully request a $15 million appropriation for IES to enable the Service to fulfill its full range of responsibilities, particularly its increasing HPA and Animal Welfare Act investigatory demands.

The number of HPA investigations undertaken by IES has jumped dramatically in the past half dozen years from a mere 7 in 2004 to 152 this year. IES must have additional funds to deal with this substantially increasing workload. Further, it is anticipated that HPA enforcement by Animal Care will continue to rise to reach a level where it will actually serve as a deterrent, and thus IES must be equipped to handle the ever-increasing number of cases that are expected. New strategies are being employed to further strengthen enforcement, including the consolidation of cases of alleged violations (Form 7077s) over a two-year period, thereby demonstrating that violations are not isolated but of an ongoing nature.

We applaud and encourage increased attention by Animal Care, IES, and OGC in their efforts to stop the abuse of gaited horses. We are confident that, with the support of Congress, USDA can ensure a fair, competitive field that permits horses and their riders to win shows based upon the natural animated gait of the horses rather than a freakish gait induced by an array of agonizing techniques applied to the front feet and legs of the horses.

Agricultural Research Service/NAL/Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)
AWI Request: $1, 978,400

We very much appreciate the Subcommittee's continuing support for the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC). AWIC's services are vitally important to the nation's biomedical research enterprise, as well as other regulated entities, because they facilitate compliance with specific requirements of the federal animal welfare regulations and policies governing animal-related research.

The AWIC was established in 1986 in response to a mandate in the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals amendment to the *Animal Welfare Act* (AWA). The Center serves as a clearinghouse, training center, and education resource for those involved in the use of animals for research, testing, and teaching (as well as other entities covered by the AWA), **and the need and demand for its services continue to outstrip its resources.** AWIC provides training and compiles, distributes, and posts on its website information resources from the scientific literature to assist researchers who use animals. The subjects covered include husbandry, handling, and care of animals; personnel training; animal behavior; alternatives; improved methodologies; environmental enrichment; and pain control via anesthesia and analgesia and other methods. It also serves as a resource for the wider scientific and agricultural communities by providing access to material on zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, tuberculosis, West Nile Virus, foot and mouth disease, the H1N1 virus, and others. Its activities contribute significantly to science-based decision-making in animal care.

In FY09, staff conducted 13 sessions of AWIC's workshop, "Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act" (evaluations of which are overwhelmingly positive, with participants indicating a high degree of new information acquisition); this was an increase of six over FY08. At the end of 2009 in Kansas City, AWIC and APHIS/Animal Care jointly presented the workshop "Considering Alternatives; Making a Difference," which was open, without cost, to any research facility personnel; about 60 people attended. AWIC and AC will collaborate again this April, again in Kansas City, on a workshop for Animal Care inspectors to help them better understand the alternatives requirement. It will train them to do alternatives searches so that they can better evaluate the products of such searches conducted by research institutions.

The AWIC website (http://awic.nal.usda.gov/)is one of the most accessed sites at NAL, with an average of over 340,000 page-views each month in FY08, a 12 percent increase over FY07. Many improvements to the website have been made in the past year, including increased timeliness and accessibility through Facebook, a Twitter account, and a blog. Currently, 250 full text documents are available on the website; 11 new ones were added in FY09, and already completed or in process for FY10 are documents on big cats, camels (update), blood collection, zebra fish, swine, elephants (update), rodent enrichment, sheep and goats, reducing animal numbers in research, and interpretive summaries of the Animal Welfare Act. Making this information available in a timely fashion urgently requires additional staff.

Today we write in support of an appropriation of $1,978,400, which is urgently needed to fund, in addition to current salaries and other expenses, AWIC's services and its ongoing efforts to improve their delivery:

- $300,000—To support the addition of 2 FTEs to the professional staff.
- $100,000—Develop web-based training modules, including interactive modules, in order to provide online delivery of training opportunities.

- $ 50,000—Present workshops for research personnel, in collaboration with Animal Care, similar to those held in 2009 in Kansas City described above. The workshops must be free of charge to the institutions in order to encourage attendance.
- $ 20,500—Internet services
- $ 10,000—AWIC staff training
- $ 15,000—To fund an internship program that would provide opportunities for post-graduate students (including veterinarians) to work on special projects, such as creating specialized information resources on animal (especially zoonotic) diseases.
- $200,000—Resume acquisition of veterinary publications that NAL discontinued 5 years ago, and increase the pace of indexing all such publications.
- $259,000—Overhead to ARS and NAL.
- $ 50,000—Meet Congressional mandate to digitize more materials; in particular, scanning historically relevant animal welfare materials dating from the 1800s.
- $ 65,000—Funding is urgently needed to update *Essentials for Animals in Research*, as well as certain animal care manuals, and then translate them, as well as, and perhaps most especially, the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations, into Spanish; develop training DVDs, etc. In the past, this program yielded useful products, including the original *Essentials for Animal Research: A Primer for Research Personnel* (which was also translated into Spanish and is still among the top ten downloaded documents); a video on normal animal behaviors; and a training video on using animals in research. It also provided support for the first World Congress on Animal Use in the Life Sciences, and for the proceedings of conferences for the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare.

The growing numbers of Spanish-speaking animal-care persOnnel in U.S. research facilities and zoos, as well as increasing interest on the part of scientific communities in Central and South America, have made the availability of Spanish-language materials a priority.

AWIC's value to the research community and other entities that must comply with the Animal Welfare Act, and to the general public, justifies this modest proposed increase in its budget.

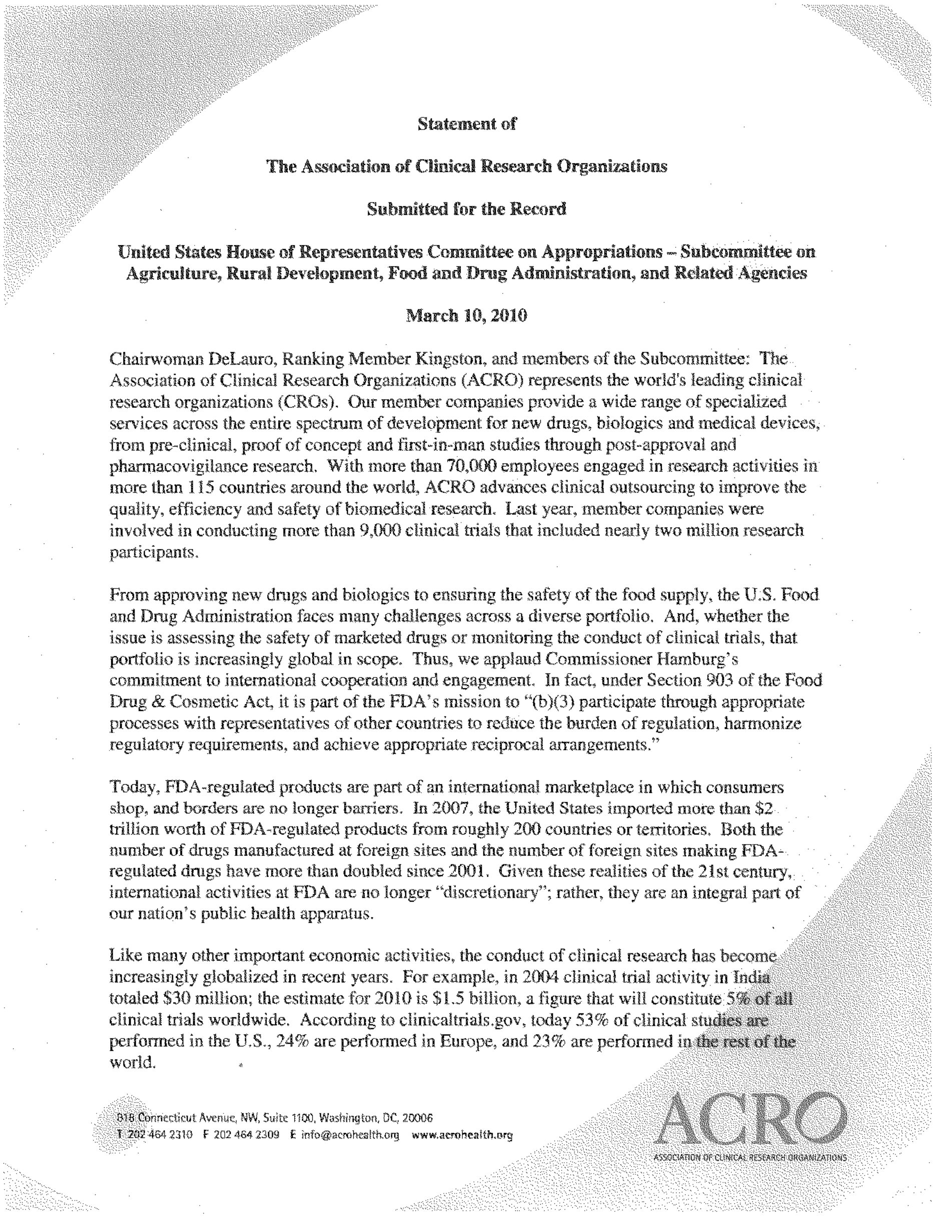
Food Safety and Inspection Service/*Humane Methods of Slaughter Act* Enforcement
AWI Request: Reallocate $2 million from existing activity (HATS)

We request that $2 million of the FSIS Humane-handling Activities Tracking (HATS) funding be allocated to strengthen Humane Methods of Slaughter Act enforcement via creation of a mobile team of slaughter plant auditors or by hiring additional District Veterinary Medical Specialists. While past appropriations have contributed to improved HMSA oversight, inadequate enforcement remains a problem. We have accumulated evidence of repeated violations at particular federal slaughter plants, as well as data demonstrating that humane slaughter and handling violations are reported with greater frequency in the presence of outside inspection personnel, such as the DVMSs, as compared to in-plant personnel.

Based on these findings, we respectfully request that funds be appropriated toward one of two alternatives: Either 1) to convene a roving slaughter inspection team that would conduct mostly unscheduled audits of handling and slaughter practices in federal plants to ensure compliance with humane standards; or 2) to increase the presence of outside personnel by hiring additional DVMSs to provide scheduled and unscheduled plant audits in accordance with their preexisting duties as prescribed by FSIS. Hiring and training of these new personnel could be funded from $2 million of the $3 million currently allocated to the Humane-handling Activities Tracking computer system.

Office of Inspector General/Animal Fighting Enforcement
AWI Request: $90.3 million

In 2007, violations of the AWA's animal fighting provisions, as well as the possession of related implements, became felonies. AWI supports providing OIG with adequate funding to allow it to pursue animal fighting cases vigorously. Animal fighting is often associated with other violent crimes, including drugs, weapons violations, and even homicide, thus posing a threat to both the welfare of animals and the welfare of our communities. This level of funding is also needed to enable OIG to carry out audits and investigations to improve compliance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the Horse Protection Act, and the downed animal rules.



Statement of

The Association of Clinical Research Organizations

Submitted for the Record

United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations – Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

March 10, 2010

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and members of the Subcommittee: The Association of Clinical Research Organizations (ACRO) represents the world's leading clinical research organizations (CROs). Our member companies provide a wide range of specialized services across the entire spectrum of development for new drugs, biologics and medical devices, from pre-clinical, proof of concept and first-in-man studies through post-approval and pharmacovigilance research. With more than 70,000 employees engaged in research activities in more than 115 countries around the world, ACRO advances clinical outsourcing to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of biomedical research. Last year, member companies were involved in conducting more than 9,000 clinical trials that included nearly two million research participants.

From approving new drugs and biologics to ensuring the safety of the food supply, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration faces many challenges across a diverse portfolio. And, whether the issue is assessing the safety of marketed drugs or monitoring the conduct of clinical trials, that portfolio is increasingly global in scope. Thus, we applaud Commissioner Hamburg's commitment to international cooperation and engagement. In fact, under Section 903 of the Food Drug & Cosmetic Act, it is part of the FDA's mission to "(b)(3) participate through appropriate processes with representatives of other countries to reduce the burden of regulation, harmonize regulatory requirements, and achieve appropriate reciprocal arrangements."

Today, FDA-regulated products are part of an international marketplace in which consumers shop, and borders are no longer barriers. In 2007, the United States imported more than $2 trillion worth of FDA-regulated products from roughly 200 countries or territories. Both the number of drugs manufactured at foreign sites and the number of foreign sites making FDA-regulated drugs have more than doubled since 2001. Given these realities of the 21st century, international activities at FDA are no longer "discretionary"; rather, they are an integral part of our nation's public health apparatus.

Like many other important economic activities, the conduct of clinical research has become increasingly globalized in recent years. For example, in 2004 clinical trial activity in India totaled $30 million; the estimate for 2010 is $1.5 billion, a figure that will constitute 5% of all clinical trials worldwide. According to clinicaltrials.gov, today 53% of clinical studies are performed in the U.S., 24% are performed in Europe, and 23% are performed in the rest of the world.

818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC, 20006
T 202 464 2310 F 202 464 2309 E info@acrohealth.org www.acrohealth.org

ACRO
ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

The expansion of clinical research to foreign countries results in benefits to U.S. patients. As *The Case for Globalization,* (a white paper ACRO commissioned in 2009,) suggested, a cancer trial that would take 5.8 years using only U.S. patients would be completed in only 1.9 years when global research sites are used. While this globalization is a positive trend for many reasons, it presents challenges as well, especially in terms of the FDA's capacity to oversee non-U.S. drug development and manufacturing.

Globalization of the biomedical research industry has greatly increased the demand on the FDA's resources. Between 2004 and 2007, the number of FDA-regulated investigators increased by 15.9% in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), by 12.1% in Latin America and by 10.2% in the Asia-Pacific region. (Meanwhile, the number of North American and Western European investigators declined by 5.2% and 6.1%, respectively.) Yet, despite the tremendous growth of clinical research abroad, 83% of FDA clinical investigator inspections between 2000 and 2008 were conducted in the U.S. and only 10% outside the U.S. and Western Europe.

As part of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, ACRO supports an FDA budget that provides adequate resources to fulfill the agency's far-flung obligations. Beyond the agency-wide budget, ACRO is especially interested in funding for the FDA's Office of International Programs (OIP). The President's proposed budget for FY 2011 requests only $16.9 million for OIP.

ACRO recommends funding OIP at $35 million in FY 2011. Such an increase would not only improve the FDA's capacity to perform audits and inspections around the world, but facilitate capacity-building in, and in cooperation with, the non-U.S. regulatory authorities whose competence and strength will ultimately impact the safety and efficacy of the drugs and biologics used by patients in the United States. Simply, the FDA remains the gold standard among drug regulators worldwide. As such, it is imperative for the FDA to increase its oversight capabilities in countries where many of the drugs it will approve in the future are being tested and to actively partner with its foreign counterparts. A budget of $35 in FY 2011 would allow the Office of International Programs to accelerate the necessary globalization of the FDA's presence.

Thank you for allowing ACRO to submit this statement. Please feel free to have your staff contact us with any questions.

Douglas Peddicord, Ph.D.
Executive Director

March 17, 2010

ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC AND
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

FY 2011 Testimony of the ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES (A•P•L•U) BOARD ON NATURAL RESOURCES (BNR)

To the

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Submitted by Dr. George Hopper, Chair of the APLU Board of Natural Resources; and Dean and Director, College of Forest Resources, Fish and Wildlife Research Center, Mississippi State University

We thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We request the following funds within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture: $35 million for McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry (McIntire-Stennis); $8 million for the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA); and $428.845 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

A•P•L•U BNR requests funding support for the McIntire-Stennis program at $35 million. America is blessed with tremendous forest resources – approximately one-third of our landmass is forested. Sustaining these forests in a healthy and productive condition is a national priority demanding a strong, continuing commitment to scientific research and graduate education. Principal financial support for university-based forestry research and graduate education comes from the McIntire-Stennis program. Congress has recently recognized the need to expand the McIntire-Stennis program to eligible historically black colleges. McIntire-Stennis funds are currently distributed according to a statutory formula to each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, with a dollar-for-dollar match required from the states. As the McIntire-Stennis program expands to include more institutions, funding for the program also needs to increase to ensure continued excellence in existing institutions as well as new institutions.

As outlined in the 2007 strategic plan, McIntire-Stennis funding is critical to:

- □Deliver scientific results and management technologies to forest land owners, managers, and policy makers;
- □Prepare the future workforce in forestry and related natural resource science for the 21st Century.

A•P•L•U BNR requests funding support for the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program at $8 million. In the U.S., 58 percent of the forest is held in private ownerships – mostly individual and family forests. These ownerships total nearly 291,000,000 acres. Given the geographic breadth of private ownerships and the astounding 10,000,000+ owners, informed stewardship of these forests promotes a secure future for the environmental and economic well-being of all our nation's forests.

In 1978 Congress recognized that private forest and rangeland owners contribute significantly to the nation's vitality and enacted RREA. This decree called for "expanded extension programs for forest and rangeland resources:" to enhance the sustainability of these renewable natural resources. Today with the support of RREA, 69 land-grant universities provide educational programs to empower private forestland and rangeland owners in the many counties and parishes across our nation. Landowners' ability to efficiently manage their properties is strengthened through educational workshops and seminars related to the eight RREA strategic issues: 1) Forest stewardship and health; 2) Wildlife and fisheries resources; 3) Rangeland stewardship and health; 4) Invasive species; 5) Economic opportunities; 6) Forestland conversion and fragmentation; 7) Diverse audiences; 8) Public policy and participation. Many landowners are interested in and adopt new practices once they know and understand them. Education can lead to properly applied and sustainable practices. Recent reported outcomes from the program include:

- □937 income-generating businesses created or expanded;
- □2,390 new jobs created;
- □27,300 landowners increased their awareness of forest or rangeland resources;
- □21,100 landowners implemented at least one new renewable resource practice;□
- $17,810,000 estimate dollars earned or saved by landowners;
- □$198,571,756 earned or saved by loggers adopting new harvesting technologies.

Every federal dollar spent in RREA leverages from $5-15 from state, county, and other sources. Continued and increased funding will allow for:

- □Equitable funding to the historically black land-grant institutions and an increase in competitive funding;
- □Creation of virtual centers of excellence with teams of USDA Forest Service scientists and Extension educators to develop extension programs and applied research for complex forest and rangeland ecosystems issues, such as climate change and bioenergy;
- □Implementation of landscape-scale projects to compliment county- and state-based programs;
- □Use of new techniques to segment the audience and use stewardship messages that have meaning for them;
- □Continued use of proven educational settings for selected audiences: workshops, field days, schools, printed publications;
- □Expanded use of new technologies: web-based learning centers, webinars, podcasts, eXtension, mobile networking, Web 2.0 tools, print-on-demand.

A•P•L•U BNR requests funding support for the Agriculture ad Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program at $428.845 million. AFRI funds research, education, and extension grants that address key problems of National, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including forestry and natural resources. This is a competitive grants program open to all higher educational institutions, not just the land-grant institutions. Substantial opportunities exist for forestry and natural resources within AFRI for research, extension, and education related to plant production and health, renewable energy, and climate change among other priorities.

We urge you to support these important forest and natural resources programs.

About **A•P•L•U**

A•P•L•U is the nation's oldest higher education association. Currently the association has over 200 member institutions – including the historically black land-grant institutions – located in all fifty states. The Association's overriding mission is to support high quality public education through efforts that enhance the capacity of member institutions to perform their traditional teaching, research, and public service roles.

About the Board on Natural Resources

The Board's mission is to promote university-based programs dealing with natural resources, fish and wildlife, ecology, minerals and energy, and the environment. Most A•P•L•U institutions are represented on the Board. Present membership exceeds 500 scientists and educators, who are some of the nation's leading research and educational expertise in environmental and natural-resource disciplines.

Association of State Dam Safety Officials
450 Old Vine Street, 2nd Floor
Lexington, Kentucky 40507
Phone: (859) 257-5140
Fax: (859) 323-1958
www.damsafety.org

Testimony of the
Association of State Dam Safety Officials

on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011
for the United States Department of Agriculture
before the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
March 19, 2010

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) is pleased to offer this testimony on the President's proposed budget for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Fiscal Year 2011. **ASDSO respectfully requests that this Subcommittee increase the Administration's proposed appropriation from $40 million to $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program.**

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials is a national non-profit organization of more than 2000 state, federal and local dam safety professionals and private sector individuals dedicated to improving dam safety through research, education and communications. Our goal simply is to save lives, prevent damage to property and to maintain the benefits of dams by preventing dam failures. Several dramatic dam failures in the United States called attention to the catastrophic consequences of failures. The failure of the federally-owned Teton Dam in 1976 caused 14 deaths and over $1 billion in damages, and is a constant reminder of the potential consequences associated with dams and the obligations to assure that dams are properly constructed, operated and maintained.

The Administration's proposed FY 2011 budget includes $40 million in discretionary appropriations to fund rehabilitation of unsafe and seriously deficient dams that were originally constructed under USDA Watershed Programs. Due to the funding freeze that has been instituted the appropriations request is the same as was appropriated by Congress in FY 2010 and slightly below the funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, which supported more than two dozen projects across 11 states.

ASDSO respectfully requests that this Subcommittee increase the Administration's proposed appropriation from $40 million to $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program. This amount is $120 million less than the total $185 million in authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill which includes both mandatory and discretionary funding for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Additionally, ASDSO has deep concerns with the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2011 budget for the USDA Watershed Program (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program). The 2011 budget proposes to terminate all funding for this important program after supplying it with nearly $300 million in the Recovery Act. The funds provided by the Recovery Act supported over 195 projects in 36 states and provided a countless number of jobs during a time when unemployment numbers are the highest they have been in decades.

The President's budget proposes $0 for watershed planning, $0 for watershed operations and only $40 million for rehabilitation of aging dams. The Administration's recent funding requests are not in touch with the reality of the documented demand for the program. **ASDSO urges you to support adequate funding for the complete Watershed Program so that important work can continue that will protect our citizens and our natural resources.**

Of the 84,000 dams listed in the National Inventory of Dams, 89 percent are regulated by the states. Approximately 11,000 of these dams are small watershed structures built under the United States Department of Agriculture programs authorized by Congress beginning in the 1940s (primarily the Flood Control Act of 1944, PL78-534 and the Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act of 1953, PL83-566). By the year 2020, more than 85 percent of all dams in the United States will be more than 50 years old, the typical useful lifespan.

THE URGENT NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION

The benefits from the nation's improved watershed dams are enormous. The dams provide downstream flood protection, water quality, irrigation, local water supplies and needed recreation. Yet these benefits to lives and property are threatened. The small watershed dams are approaching the end of their useful lives as critical components deteriorate. The reservoirs become completely filled with sediment, downstream development increases the potential hazards and significantly changes the design standards, and many dams do not meet state dam safety standards.

Although these dams were constructed with technical and financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture, local sponsors were then responsible for operation and maintenance of the structures. Now these dams are approaching the end of their useful lives, yet the resource need is still great. The flood control benefits, the irrigation needs, the water supply, the recreation and the conservation demands do not end. In fact, they are more necessary than ever as downstream development has dramatically increased the number of people, properties and infrastructure that are protected by the flood control functions of these dams. The Federal government has a critical leadership role in assuring that these dams continue to provide critical safety and resource needs.

The NRCS in the Department of Agriculture has estimated the cost of rehabilitating the small watershed dams at over $500 million. While the average rehabilitation cost per dam is approximately $242,000, the local sponsors typically do not have sufficient financial resources to complete these necessary repairs to assure the safety and critical functions of these dams. The Federal government must recognize the urgent need to provide assistance to maintain these dams. Congress should reinforce its earlier commitment to the goals of the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1953.

Since the program began, there have been 163 watershed rehabilitation projects initiated across the country, which include 77 completed rehabilitation projects and 81 projects either in the planning, design or construction phase. It is clear from these 163 projects how successful this USDA program is. For example, in Albuquerque, New Mexico the Piedra Liza Dam had shown deficiencies within the dam and if it failed would have adversely affected nearly 1,700 residents. The county applied to the NRCS Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program for assistance in 2005 and by 2007 the repairs has been completed.

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

More than 4,000 deficient dams have been identified in this country and many of the owners do not have sufficient funding sources. Additionally, thousands more dams still need to be rehabilitated: 1,065 watershed dams have already exceeded their design life and by 2015 an additional 4,300 dams will have exceeded their design life. Finally, 1,000 dams need to be rehabilitated due to stricter dam safety standards as a result of downstream development greatly increasing the consequences of a dam failure.

More than 1,000 watershed dams across the nation will need rehabilitation in just the next five years at a cost of over $570 million. These numbers will increase as dams get older and thousands of people and millions of dollars of property could be at risk if these dams should fail. That is why Congress authorized $185 million for rehabilitation for 2008- 2012 in the last Farm Bill. With these funds the NRCS estimates performing 400 dam assessments, processing 250 local sponsor requests for assistance, developing 200 rehabilitation plans, completing 170 designs, and rehabilitating 120 watershed dams in FY 2009 – 2012. Local watershed project sponsors provide 35 percent of the cost of the rehabilitation projects and many have local cost-share funds ready for projects that could be lost if the federal money isn't made available.

Many of these urgent repairs and modifications are needed because of the following: downstream development within the dam failure flood zone, replacement of critical dam components, inadequate spillway capacity due to significant watershed development and increased design criteria due to downstream development.

Many of the small watershed dams do not meet minimum state dam safety standards and many that are being counted on for flood protection can no longer provide flood protection due to excessive sedimentation and significant increases in runoff from development within the watershed. The dams suffer from cracked concrete spillways, failing spillways, inoperable lake drains and other problems that require major repairs that are beyond the capability of the local sponsors.

THE COST OF NO ACTION

These small watershed dams have been a silent and beneficial part of the landscape. Small watershed dam projects have provided an estimated $1.5 billion in annual benefits in reduced flooding and erosion damages, recreation, water supplies, and wildlife habitats. However, the failure to make the necessary upgrades, repairs and modifications will increase the likelihood of dam failures. Continued neglect of these structures may easily result in reduced flood control capacity causing increased downstream flooding. Failure of a dam providing water supply would result in a lack of drinking water or important irrigation water.

The recent dam failures in Hawaii and Missouri have brought into tragic focus for the public the impact aging and under-funded dams can have on a community. The failure to act quickly will clearly result in continued deterioration and a greater number of unsafe dams until a dam failure disaster occurs.

Completion of the needed repairs will result in safer dams, as well as continued benefits. Failure to establish a mechanism to reinvest in these structures will greatly increase the chances of dam failures and loss of benefits, both having significant economic and human consequences. Costs resulting from flood damage and dam failure damage are high and unnecessarily tap the Federal government through disaster relief funds or the National Flood Insurance Program.

RECOMMENDATION

ASDSO asks that the Subcommittee view funding the Rehabilitation of Watershed Dams as a significant re-investment in the benefits of the program and an investment in the safety of these dams. **Therefore, ASDSO respectfully requests that this Subcommittee provide additional appropriations beyond the Administration's request of $40 million for FY 2011 by appropriating $65 million for the small watershed dam rehabilitation program. Additionally, ASDSO requests that the Subcommittee support adequate funding for the complete Watershed Program so that important work can continue that will protect our citizens and our natural resources.**

The condition of our nation's dams, specifically the need for watershed structure rehabilitation, should be a national priority before we have to clean up after dam failures that we know are likely to happen if nothing is done.

Daniel Brister, Executive Director
Buffalo Field Campaign
PO Box 957 West Yellowstone MT 59758
Phone: (406) 646-0070 Fax: (406) 646-0071
Web: www.buffalofieldcampaign.org Email: bfc@wildrockies.org

March 18, 2010

Dear Chairperson Rosa DeLauro and Congressional members of the Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Congressional appropriations to the Dept. of Agriculture. Buffalo Field Campaign was founded in 1997 to stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild buffalo herd, protect the natural habitat of wild free-roaming buffalo and native wildlife, and to work with people of all Nations to honor the sacredness of wild buffalo.

Buffalo Field Campaign is located in West Yellowstone, Gallatin County, Montana, and is supported by citizens in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, and by people from around the world who value America's native wildlife and the ecosystems upon which they depend, and enjoy the natural wonders of our irreplaceable public lands and waters.

As an organization and on behalf of its members, Buffalo Field Campaign is concerned and actively involved with protecting the last remaining descendants of indigenous buffalo in North America to continuously occupy their original range in Yellowstone.

Buffalo Field Campaign sends our plea to the U.S. Congress to reconsider current appropriations for the Interagency Bison Management Plan which appears incapable of conserving wild buffalo populations for future generations or protecting state's brucellosis-free cattle marketing status, the plan's stated goals.

Ten years after the Plan was signed, with an investment of over $30 million in American taxpayer dollars to kill several thousand wild buffalo, the inter-agency partners are still no closer to achieving any goal of its plan (GAO, 2008).

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) receives approximately $9 million annually to administer the Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program. Approximately $1 million of this allocation is redirected to the Montana Dept. of Livestock (MDOL) for implementation of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) each year since the plan's inception in 2000. The vast majority of this money is spent to haze, capture and slaughter bison. More than 3,200 wild bison have been killed since 2000.

The MDOL maintains broad statutory discretion over how bison entering Montana are managed to prevent the transmission of the disease brucellosis to domestic livestock and maintain compliance with the Federal Brucellosis Eradication Program by maintaining temporal and spatial separation between bison and cattle. Thus far, MDOL has depended entirely on the strategy of removing bison from the Montana landscape by means of aggressive hazing back into Yellowstone National Park, capture, and transport to slaughter or shooting.

Since the 2008 GAO report and the inception of a bison hunt in Montana, MDOL has agreed to several adaptive changes to the IBMP that allow minimal tolerance for limited numbers of bison in very specific locations outside of Park boundaries. These adaptive changes are primarily a response to two significant factors. First, domestic cattle are no longer present at any time of the year on the Horse Butte Peninsula on either private or public land and the USFS has permanently closed the grazing allotments on Horse Butte's public land. Second, the State instituted a public hunt for bison entering Montana thus creating the need for bison to be present in Montana during the hunt period from November 15 to February 15. Additionally, small numbers of "bachelor" bull bison have been granted some tolerance in a very limited area due to the infinitesimally low risk of brucellosis transmission they represent.

These adaptive changes were agreed upon by all five member agencies of the IBMP in a December 2008 memorandum. Part of the adaptive management process is to base management decisions on observable and measurable data as recommended in the GAO report. However, after only one management season under the agreed upon changes, the MDOL has decided to unilaterally modify the plan and further restrict the numbers and areas where bison will be tolerated in the late winter and spring months. Essentially, the MDOL has nullified most of the increased tolerance for bison agreed upon by all five agencies only a year earlier. The state is basing its decision on only one year of data and only on the effectiveness of bison control efforts. In this same year, the state has made no efforts to adapt livestock management practices in the area based on the latest available scientific data about brucellosis transmission.

Specifically, research indicates that brucella bacteria from infected fetal or amniotic material will not be viable in the environment after June 15 (Aune, et al, 2007). Interestingly, the stocking date for cattle in the area where the state is most concerned about bison to cattle transmission, the Deep Well Ranch, is June 12th (IBMP Annual Report, 2008-2009). Yet, the state has the statutory authority to determine the stocking date for these cattle and develop a herd management plan for the cattle that are transported to this area but has not done so.

One of the primary goals of the IBMP is to maintain Montana's brucellosis free status. However, Montana was downgraded to Class A status in 2007 due to the discovery of brucellosis infected cattle in an area where bison are never present. A recent study (Beja-Pereira, et al, 2009) researched the origins of brucellosis infections from DNA sampled in cattle, elk and bison from 1992-2003 and found data suggesting elk were the source of cattle infections in Idaho and Wyoming. Additionally, another recent study indicated that transmission from bison to elk is very rare (Garrott, Proffitt, 2007). Yet nearly all of the resources allocated to Montana for brucellosis programs go toward bison management even though there has never been a documented case of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle under natural circumstances.

An epidemiological and ecological study (Kilpatrick 2009) found benefits in the strategy of "establishing a local brucellosis infection status zone for cattle in the greater Yellowstone area of Montana and testing all cattle within this area for brucellosis" and concluded "that transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle even under a 'no plan' (no management of bison) strategy is likely to be a relatively rare event, and the costs of yearly testing of cattle ($2500 to $5000 a year per test for the cattle in areas shown in Fig. 1) are a thousand-fold lower than the current management plan."

In the fall of 2009, APHIS released a document for public comment titled, "A Concept Paper for a New Direction for the Bovine Brucellosis Program." In essence, APHIS would like to eliminate the current state-based classification system, classify the Untied States as brucellosis free, and create a management zone around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) with required testing, vaccination and herd management plans for livestock within the zone. If adopted, this plan would protect the vast majority of Montana ranchers from any negative impacts associated with brucellosis transmission in the GYE. It would also enable targeted management of areas where disease transmission risk is greatest. In other words, the risk of transmission for each cattle herd in the management zone would be examined and appropriate management decisions to reduce risk would be taken. Additionally, if a cattle herd within the management zone were to contract brucellosis, the herd could be quarantined, test and slaughter protocols could be used to identify and remove infected cattle, and then be removed from quarantine when all evidence of disease is eliminated. The current regulations require the depopulation of the entire cattle herd for the state to retain brucellosis free status. The savings from instituting this new brucellosis strategy would be tens of millions of dollars annually for the federal government and many millions more for ranchers throughout the country that would no longer be under unnecessary testing requirement to ship livestock across international borders.

If this new concept for brucellosis management were adopted, there would be much greater flexibility in how bison are managed when they enter Montana. Montana would remain in compliance with the federal program simply by maintaining the management zone and focusing on specific livestock operations rather than on all bison that leave the boundaries of YNP. The cost savings of this approach would be substantial and immediate as compared to the current management plan, which will continue indefinitely without some technological breakthrough that is not currently on the horizon.

A very recent study quantifying the risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle outside of YNP found that at most times, the risk of transmission is zero. The study found that risk is highly specific to certain areas at certain times of year and concluded that based on this quantified risk assessment, the continuation of the current management scenario is not cost effective. The study suggested two strategies that would be far more economical to manage the actual risk of transmission based on geography and time. The first follows the above discussion with the creation of a brucellosis management zone for the area where bison exit the Park that includes additional testing. The second is the purchase of cattle and/or grazing rights and the closing of public lands grazing allotments in areas where bison leave the Park (Kilpatrick et al, 2009).

All of this information is presented to demonstrate that the current level of funding from APHIS to the MDOL for bison management, nearly $1 million per year, should be diverted to effective cattle management. Clearly there are more effective ways to ensure that bison do not transmit brucellosis to cattle and that Montana's livestock economy is not adversely affected by the endemic presence of brucellosis in the GYE.

We strongly urge the Committee to redirect funds appropriated to APHIS for brucellosis eradication that are channeled to the MDOL for bison management. These funds would be much more effectively used to help Montana implement a brucellosis management zone for the GYE and/or to purchase grazing rights, cattle or private property in areas where bison migrate from YNP. Additionally, all public lands grazing permits in this area should be considered for closure and all vacant or returned allotments should be closed immediately.

Thank you for this opportunity to present information and ideas to the Committee. Please feel free to contact our organization for more information about potential solutions to the current bison management quagmire.

CAMPAIGN FOR CONTRACT AGRICULTURE REFORM
a voice for contract farmers, ranchers and their communities

March 19, 2010

Testimony of

Steven Etka
Legislative Coordinator
Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform

submitted to the

House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

regarding
Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Requests

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Steven Etka. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform (CCAR) regarding fiscal year 2011 funding requests for USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Agency (GIPSA).

The Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform (CCAR) is a national alliance of organizations working to provide a voice for farmers and ranchers involved in contract agriculture, as well as the communities in which they live. The goal of the campaign is to assure that the processor-producer relationship serves as a fair partnership, rather than a dictatorship.

The Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 prohibits packers, swine contractors, and live poultry dealers from engaging in unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive trade practices. The Act is administered by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Agency (GIPSA).

Contract poultry growers regularly experience unfair and deceptive treatment in their dealings with the live poultry dealers with whom they contract. While is it GIPSA's job to take action against these companies when such practices occur, the agency's capacity to do so has been greatly limited by staff resources. As a result, many growers have had to wait years for their cases to be addressed, and others have had cases unresolved because of lack of resources at GIPSA. Because of the vulnerable economic positions that most growers are in, justice delayed on enforcement of unfair practices is indeed justice denied.

Therefore, we are greatly encouraged by the new dedication to the mission of GIPSA by the Obama Administration, the recent actions taken by the agency to increase enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, and their willingness to do what's necessary to make further improvements. In keeping with that new commitment, the Administration's fiscal year 2011 budget requests an increase of $2.035 million for the Packers and Stockyards Program within GIPSA, to add 16 additional staff years to strengthen enforcement of the Act.

As described in USDA's FY 2011 Budget Justification document (page 20-7):

> *"This increase will strengthen direct enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and promote greater voluntary compliance with the Act through an expanded GIPSA presence within the industry. The P&S Act provides an important safety net for livestock producers and poultry growers in rural America by prohibiting unfair, deceptive, and fraudulent practices in the livestock, poultry, and meatpacking industries. As such, compliance with the Act is a measure of the level of protection provided in the marketplace. The Agency strives to increase industry compliance to maximize the level of protection afforded to all market participants. GIPSA conducts routine and ongoing regulatory inspections and audits to assess whether subject entities are operating in compliance with the Act, and conducts investigations of potential P&S Act violations identified by either industry complaints or previous GIPSA regulatory inspections: All activities are carried out by professionals including economists, attorneys, accountants, and agricultural marketing professionals. Economic conditions will result in a continued increase in complaints and, therefore, an increased need for GIPSA protection under the Packers and Stockyards Act. Additional resident agents and investigative attorneys are needed to expand investigative, regulatory, and audit activities in order to raise industry compliance levels from the 80 percent level attained in 2008; enhance market protections for buyers and sellers of livestock, poultry, and meat; and enforce the amendments in the 2008 Farm Bill. Funding will also provide for attorneys to provide additional legal support for enforcement of the P&S Act."*

We strongly urge the Subcommittee to provide the increased resources requested by GIPSA for Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement. Without swift and thorough enforcement of the Act, contact growers will continue to experience trade practice abuses that are unacceptable.

For more information please contact:
steveetka@gmail.com

CAMPAIGN TO
END OBESITY

805 15th Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington, DC 20005
202-466-8100 • www.obesitycampaign.org

Statement for the Record
United States House of Representatives Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations
Hearing on "Child Nutrition"

Thursday, March 4th

The Campaign to End Obesity is dedicated to reversing America's costliest disease. Right now, 1 in 3 adults and 1 in 5 children struggle with obesity. Taxpayers, governments and businesses spend billions on obesity-related conditions each year, including an estimated $147 billion in medical costs.

Ending this epidemic requires change – in individuals, institutions and communities. As our Board of Directors and Advisory Council membership (attached) reflects, the Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to speak with one voice and advocate for federal policies to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults. From changes to nutrition policy, health policy, or environment and transportation policy, the Campaign promotes changes that support and facilitate obesity prevention and treatment for Americans in all walks of life.

The Obesity Epidemic Threatens our Children's Future

For the first time in our nation's history, the current generation of children faces the likelihood of shorter life spans than their parents, due, in part, to the complications that arise from overweight and obesity.

The epidemic has brought other tolls as well: children with obesity suffer from a growing list of emotional disorders such as depression, social stigmatization, and poor academic performance. We must work to curtail this troubling trend.

Among minority and underserved populations, the stakes are even more critical: 23.4 percent of Hispanic children and 23.8 percent of black children have obesity, compared with 12.9 percent of Caucasian children.[1] Children in minority and other disadvantaged communities face incredible barriers to healthy living: they often lack access to affordable, culturally relevant, nutritious foods; many of their neighborhoods lack safe spaces as well as structured opportunities to get needed physical activity; and they often lack the information they need to guide them to healthy choices.

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[1] Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. *2007 National Survey of Children's Health*, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 12-14-09 from www.nschdata.org

Federal Solutions Are Needed

The Campaign urges members of the Committee to commit to policy steps that are needed to turn the tide on this costly, dangerous and growing epidemic and improve the health of all Americans.

The Campaign applauds the First Lady's "Let's Move" anti-obesity campaign and USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge but recognizes that passage of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act is a vital and key step to ensure that America's infants, children, women and elderly have access to healthy, affordable and nutritious foods and begin to end America's obesity epidemic. As Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently stated, "the health of our nation – of our economy, our national security, and our communities – depends on the health of our children. We will not succeed if any of our children aren't learning as they should because they are hungry, and cannot achieve their potential because they aren't healthy. The upcoming reauthorization [of the Child Nutrition Act] must substantially improve the nutritional quality of the meals being served to our children."

With this in mind, we seek to work with the Committee to advance three specific priority objectives:

- **Improve access to healthy foods**
    - Congress should ensure that the competitive foods program require that all foods sold on school campuses meet the most up-to-date Institutes of Medicine guidelines on nutrition.
    - Congress should ensure that foods eligible to be reimbursed under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meet specific dietary guidelines.
    - Congress should update the nutritional guidelines for foods sold as part of the school meal program.
- **Include measures to track and monitor overweight and obesity, including BMI screenings**
    - Congress should conduct a pilot program to examine the health benefits of increasing reimbursement rates for foods sold under the school meal program.
    - Congress should mandate that schools, as part of their local school wellness policies, implement Body Mass Index screening. Already 13 states require BMI screenings in schools.
- **Improve the access to affordable and nutritious foods in communities of need**
    - Congress should authorize funding to study the impact of increasing the value of the food packages offered under the WIC program.
    - Congress should increase the reimbursement rates for the school meal program in school districts that meet enhanced dietary guidelines. This will help ensure that schools can continue to offer healthful, culturally relevant meals.

Additionally, the Campaign urges federal policymakers to take a range of steps outside of the purview of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act to promote physical activity and facilitate key changes to the healthcare delivery system to address overweight and obesity.

These steps are representative of the recommendations of the National Summit on Obesity Policy which was held in May 2007 and brought together over 100 leaders from across academia, government, industry and public health to discuss how the federal government should address, prevent and treat overweight and obesity. Specifically:

- **Recognize obesity as a disease**
    - Congress should establish a statutory framework that recognizes obesity as a disease, and that prompts payors to cover needed prevention and treatment options for children with obesity or at risk of having obesity. Until we acknowledge that obesity is not only a disease, but in fact that it is America's costliest medical condition, providers will be dis-incented from diagnosing cases in children that must be recognized in the doctor/patient/family dialogue before the disease prompts the onset of other, dangerous conditions. As providers from around the nation report increasing cases of Type II diabetes and obesity-related heart conditions in children, we must take steps to recognize and act on obesity before it leads to more harm, more suffering, and more cost.

- **Screen adults and children for obesity and make BMI a "vital sign"**
    - In order to prevent or fight obesity, Americans must know whether they are at risk of obesity or have the disease. Most Americans do not know whether they or their children are at a healthy weight, and thus many do little or nothing to fight the disease they have or may soon have. Americans need to know whether their body weight is healthy in the same way that they currently know whether their body temperature, cholesterol level, or blood pressure. One way to address this shortcoming is for Congress to expand the identification and treatment of childhood and adult obesity by screening body mass index (BMI) and body composition as standard vital signs under all federal insurance programs, and as part of all federally insured medical visits for children and adults. Work pioneered by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and its grantees has demonstrated the high correlation between monitoring and reporting BMI among children, prompting needed engagement and action by parents and caregivers to address obesity in at-risk children, and reversing the growth of childhood obesity rates.

- **Create structural improvements that help Americans get more physically active**
    - Particularly in the context of transportation infrastructure investments and energy efficiency programs, we urge Congress to fund needed infrastructure improvements around the nation that facilitate and encourage increased physical activity in communities and schools. Building or rehabilitating safe, lighted roads, bike and hike paths, playgrounds and other such facilities is, quite simply, good for Americans and the investment will yield tremendous long-term dividends in health benefits to our children.

Some Progress is Already Underway

We applaud Members of the House and Senate who have worked towards addressing the obesity epidemic in the context of health care reform legislation, and are pleased to see some early and needed steps in the areas of prevention and treatment that will support these aims.

We are particularly pleased to see a $10 million obesity grant program supporting evidence-based programs to prevent overweight and obesity among children and their families, as well as new grants to public and nonprofit organizations for research and demonstration projects to encourage individuals and communities to increase wellness and healthy behaviors. (what about the $25 mil in the SCHIP program and the mandate for insurance coverage?)

However, there is still much work to be done. Thankfully, Congress has a number of opportunities in during this legislative calendar to address overweight and obesity in Congress – especially in the context of the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

We look forward to working with the Committee and its members to achieve these needed goals.

CAMPAIGN TO
END OBESITY

805 15th Street, NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005
202-466-8100 • www.obesitycampaign.org

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Supporters

The nonprofit Campaign to End Obesity operates through contributions and professional in-kind support. Donors include:

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COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, UT 84010
(801) 292-4663
(801) 524-6320 (fax)

March 1, 2010

Chairman Rosa DeLauro
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Chairman DeLauro:

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum has adopted a position supporting funding for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Title II program. The testimony of the Forum is attached for your consideration.

We would appreciate you making this statement a part of the formal hearing record concerning FY 2011 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. We thank you for your Subcommittee's support of this program in years past and hope that you will again support funding to continue this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Jack A. Barnett

Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
jbarnett@barnettwater.com

attachment

Statement of
the
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL FORUM

to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Presented by
JACK A. BARNETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
March 1, 2010

Requesting Appropriations
for the
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM, TITLE II

For the Department of Agriculture

FY 2011 Appropriation

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control, Title II
Forum's Recommendation Concerning:
Funding for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Request there be designated to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program 2.5% of the EQIP funding

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The Congress concluded that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program) should be implemented in the most cost-effective way. The Program is funded by EQIP, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Basinwide Program, and a cost share for both of these programs provided by the Basin States. Realizing that agricultural on-farm strategies were some of the most cost-effective strategies, the Congress authorized a program for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through amendment of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (Act) in 1984. With the enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA), the Congress directed that the Program should continue to be implemented as one of the components of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Since the enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) in 2002, there have been, for the first time in a number of years, opportunities to adequately fund the Program within the EQIP. In 2008, Congress passed the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA). The FCEA addresses the cost sharing required from the Basin Funds. In so doing, the FCEA named the cost sharing requirement as the Basin States Program (BSP). The BSP will provide 30% of the total amount that will be spent each year by the combined EQIP and BSP effort.

The Program, as set forth in the Act, is to benefit Lower Basin water users hundreds of miles downstream from salt sources in the Upper Basin as the salinity of Colorado River water increases as the water flows downstream. There are very significant economic damages caused by high salt levels in this water source. Agriculturalists in the Upper Basin where the salt must be controlled, however, don't first look to downstream water quality standards but look for local benefits. These local benefits are in the form of enhanced beneficial use and improved crop yields. They submit cost-effective proposals to the State Conservationists in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado and offer to cost share in the acquisition of new irrigation equipment. It is the Act that provides that the seven Colorado River Basin States will also cost share with the federal funds for this effort. This has brought together a remarkable partnership.

After longstanding urgings from the states and directives from the Congress, the USDA has concluded that this program is different than small watershed enhancement efforts common to the EQIP. In the case of the Colorado River salinity control effort, the watershed to be considered stretches more than 1,200 miles from the river's headwater in the Rocky Mountains to the river's terminus in the Gulf of California in Mexico and receives water from numerous tributaries. The USDA has determined that this effort should receive a special funding designation and has appointed a coordinator for this multi-state effort.

In recent fiscal years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has directed that about $18 million of EQIP funds be used for the Program. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) appreciates the efforts of the NRCS leadership and the support of this subcommittee. The plan for water quality control of the Colorado River was prepared by the Forum, adopted by the states, and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council has taken the position that the funding for the salinity control program should not be below $20 million per year. Over the last three fiscal years, for the first time, funding almost reached the needed level. State and local cost-sharing is triggered by the federal appropriation. In FY 11, it is anticipated that the states will cost share with about $8 million and local agriculture producers will add more than $7 million. Hence, it is anticipated that in FY 11 the state and local contributions will be about 45% of the total program cost.

Over the past few years, the NRCS has designated that about 2.5% of the EQIP funds be allocated to the Colorado River salinity control program. The Forum believes this is the appropriate future level of funding as long as the total EQIP funding nationwide is more than $1 billion. Funding above this level assists in offsetting pre-fiscal year 2003 funding below this level. The Basin States have cost sharing dollars available to participate in funding on-farm salinity control efforts. The agricultural producers in the Upper Basin are waiting for their applications to be considered so that they might improve their irrigation equipment and also cost share in the Program.

OVERVIEW

The Program was authorized by the Congress in 1974. The Title I portion of the Act responded to commitments that the United States made, through a Minute of the International Boundary and Water Commission, to Mexico specific to the quality of water being delivered to Mexico below Imperial Dam. Title II of the Act established a program to respond to salinity control needs of Colorado River water users in the United States and to comply with the mandates of the then newly-enacted Clean Water Act. This testimony is in support of funding for the Title II program.

After a decade of investigative and implementation efforts, the Basin States concluded that the Act needed to be amended. The Congress agreed and made a major revision to the Act in 1984. That revision, while keeping the Department of the Interior as lead coordinator for Colorado River Basin salinity control efforts, also gave new salinity control responsibilities to the USDA. The Congress has charged the Administration with implementing the most cost-effective program practicable (measured in dollars per ton of salt controlled). It has been determined that the agricultural efforts are some of the most cost-effective opportunities.

Since Congressional mandates of more than three decades ago, much has been learned about the impact of salts in the Colorado River system. The BOR has conducted studies on the economic impact of these salts. The BOR recognizes that the damages to United States' water users alone are hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

The Forum is composed of gubernatorial appointees from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The Forum has become the seven-state coordinating body for interfacing with federal agencies and the Congress in support of the implementation of the Salinity Control Program. In close cooperation with the EPA and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act, every three years the Forum prepares a formal report evaluating the salinity of the Colorado River, its anticipated future salinity, and the program elements necessary to keep the salinity concentrations (measured in Total Dissolved Solids – TDS) at or below the levels measured in the river system in 1972 at Imperial Dam, and below Parker and Hoover Dams.

In setting water quality standards for the Colorado River system, the salinity concentrations at these three locations in 1972 have been identified as the numeric criteria. The plan necessary for controlling salinity and reducing downstream damages has been captioned the "Plan of Implementation." The 2008 Review of water quality standards includes an updated Plan of Implementation. In order to eliminate the shortfall in salinity control resulting from inadequate federal funding for a number of years from the USDA, the Forum has determined that implementation of the Program needs to be accelerated. The level of appropriation requested in this testimony is in keeping with the agreed upon plan. If adequate funds are not appropriated, significant damages from the higher salt concentrations in the water will be more widespread in the United States and Mexico.

Concentrations of salts in the river cause well over $300 million in quantified damages and significantly more in unquantified damages in the United States and result in poorer quality water being delivered by the United States to Mexico. Damages occur from:

- a reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector,
- a reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector,
- an increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector,
- an increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector,

- a decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector,
- difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and
- increased use of imported water for leaching and cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

STATE COST-SHARING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The authorized cost sharing by the Basin States, as provided by FAIRA, was at first difficult to implement as attorneys for the USDA concluded that the Basin States were authorized to cost share in the effort, but the Congress had not given the USDA authority to receive the Basin States' funds. After almost a year of exploring every possible solution as to how the cost sharing was to occur, the states, in agreement with Reclamation, state officials in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming and with NRCS State Conservationists in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming, agreed upon a program parallel to the salinity control activities provided by the EQIP wherein the states' cost sharing funds are being contributed and used. We now have several years of experience with that program and with the passage of FCEA we now have a clear authority for this program that is now known as the BSP.

The Act designates that the Secretary of the Interior provide the coordination for the federal agencies involved in the salinity control program. That responsibility has been delegated to the BOR. The BOR administers the Basin States cost sharing funds that have been used in the Parallel Program. The BOR requested that there be enacted clearer authority for the use of these funds.

With respect to the use of Basin States' cost sharing funds in the past, the Basin States felt that it was most essential that a portion of the Program be associated with technical assistance (TA) and education activities in the field. Without this necessary support, there is no advanced planning, proposals are not well prepared, assertions in the proposals cannot be verified, implementation of contracts cannot be observed, and valuable partnering and education efforts cannot occur. Recognizing these values, it is essential that adequate funds for TA be provided by USDA and the BSP.

Jack A. Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, UT 84010
(801) 292-4663
(801) 524-6320 (fax)
jbarnett@barnettwater.com

STATE OF CALIFORNIA B THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1035
(818) 500-1625
(818) 543-4685 FAX

March 17, 2010

Chairman Rosa DeLauro
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Chairman DeLauro:

The Colorado River Boar of California (CRB) has adopted a position supporting funding for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Title II program. The testimony of the CRB is attached for your consideration.

I would appreciate it if you make this statement a part of the formal hearing record concerning FY 2011 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. I thank you for your Subcommittee's support of this program in years past and hope that you will again support funding to continue this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director

STATE OF CALIFORNIA a THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
770 FAIRMONT AVENUE, SUITE 100
GLENDALE, CA 91203-1035
(818) 500-1625
(818) 543-4685 FAX

March17, 2010

Statement of
the
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

to the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Presented by
GERALD R. ZIMMERMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
March 17, 2010

Requesting Appropriations for the
COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM, TITLE II

Support for Fiscal Year 2011 Federal Funding of 2.5% of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (at least $20 million annually) for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

This testimony is in support of funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with respect to its on-farm Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program for Fiscal Year 2011. This program has been carried out through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act (P.L. 93-320), since it was enacted by Congress in 1974. With the enactment of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act (FAIRA) in 1996 (P.L. 104-127), specific funding for salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin were eliminated from the federal budget and aggregated into the Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as one of its program components. With that action, Congress concluded that the salinity control program could be more effectively implemented as one of the components of the EQIP. In 2008, Congress passed the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA). The FCEA addressed the cost sharing required from the Basin Funds. In so doing, the FCEA named the cost sharing requirement as the Basin States Program (BSP). The BSP will provide 30% of the total amount that will be spent each year by the combined EQIP and BSP effort.

The Program, as set forth in the Act, benefits both the Upper Basin water users through more efficient water management and the Lower Basin water users, hundreds of miles downstream from salt sources in the Upper Basin, through reduced salinity concentration of Colorado

River water. California's Colorado River water users are presently suffering economic damages in the hundreds of million of dollars per year due to the River's salinity.

The Colorado River Board of California (Colorado River Board) is the state agency charged with protecting California's interests and rights in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. In this capacity, California along with the other six Colorado River Basin states through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum), the interstate organization responsible for coordinating the Basin States' salinity control efforts, established numeric criteria in June 1975 for salinity concentrations in the River. These criteria were established to lessen the future damages in the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California, and Nevada, as well as assist the United States in delivering water of adequate quality to Mexico in accordance with Minute 242 of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

The goal of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program is to offset the effects of water resources development in the Colorado River Basin after 1972 as each state develops its Colorado River Compact apportionments. In close cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pursuant to requirements of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500), every three years the Forum prepares a formal report analyzing the salinity of the Colorado River, anticipated future salinity, and the program elements necessary to keep the salinity concentrations (measured in Total Dissolved Solids – TDS) at or below the levels measured in the Colorado River system in 1972 at Imperial Dam, and below Parker and Hoover Dams. The latest report was prepared in 2008 titled: *2008 Review, Water Quality Standards for Salinity, Colorado River System* (2008 Review). The plan necessary for controlling salinity and reducing downstream damages has been captioned the "Plan of Implementation." The 2008 Review includes an updated Plan of Implementation.

Concentrations of salts in the River annually cause about $376 million in quantified damage in the United States (there are significant un-quantified damages as well). For example, damages occur from:

- A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector;
- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;
- An increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;

- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;

- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;

- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling due to groundwater quality deterioration; and

- Increased use of imported water for leaching and the cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

For every 30 milligram per liter increase in salinity concentrations, there are $75 million in additional damages in the United States. Although the Program, thus far, has been able to implement salinity control measures that comply with the approved plan, recent drought years have caused salinity levels to rise in the River. Predictions are that this will be the trend for the next several years. This places an added urgency for acceleration of the implementation of the Program.

Enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 provided an opportunity to adequately fund the Salinity Program within EQIP. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council has taken the position that the USDA portion of the effort be funded at 2.5% of the EQIP funding, but at least $20 million annually. Over the past few years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has designated 2.5 percent of EQIP funds be allocated to the Colorado River Salinity Control program. The Colorado River Board supports the recommendation of the Advisory Council and urges this Subcommittee to support funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program for 2011 at this level.

These federal dollars will be augmented by the state cost sharing of 30 percent with an additional 25 percent provided by the agricultural producers with whom USDA contracts for implementation of salinity control measures. Over the past years, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control program has proven to be a very cost effective approach to help mitigate the impacts of increased salinity in the Colorado River. Continued federal funding of this important Basin-wide program is essential.

In addition, the Colorado River Board recognizes that the federal government has made significant commitments to the Republic of Mexico and to the seven Colorado River Basin States with regard to the delivery of quality water to Mexico. In order for those commitments to continue to be honored, it is essential that in FY 2011, and in future fiscal years, that Congress continues to provide funds to USDA to allow it to provide needed technical support to agricultural producers for addressing salinity control in the Basin.

The Colorado River is, and will continue to be, a major and vital water resource to the 18 million residents of southern California as well as throughout the Colorado River Basin. As stated earlier, preservation and improvement of the Colorado River water quality through an effective salinity control program will avoid the additional economic damages to users of Colorado River water in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

If any member of the Committee or Subcommittee requires additional information should feel free to contact me at (818) 500-1625.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director

JIM GIBBONS, *Governor*
GEORGE F. OGILVIE III, *Chairman*
ACE I. ROBISON, *Vice Chairman*
GEORGE M. CAAN, *Executive Director*

STATE OF NEVADA

MARYBEL BATJER, *Commissioner*
TOM COLLINS, *Commissioner*
DUNCAN R. MCCOY, *Commissioner*
BERLYN D. MILLER, *Commissioner*
LOIS TARKANIAN, *Commissioner*

COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION
OF NEVADA

March 5, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Subject: Support of Funding of the Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro:

As a Nevada representative of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, the Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRCN) supports full funding of the Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and recommends that this Committee advise the Administration that 2.5% or, at a minimum, $20,000,000, of the EQIP funds be designated for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

Salinity remains one of the major problems in the Colorado River. Congress has recognized the need to confront this problem with its passage of P.L. 93-320 and P.L. 98-569. Your support of the current funding recommendations for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program is essential to move the program forward so that the congressionally directed salinity objectives are achieved.

Sincerely,

/s/ George M. Caan

George M. Caan
Executive Director

GMC/NE/jln

cc: Representative Shelley Berkley, State of Nevada
Representative Dina Titus, State of Nevada
Representative Dean Heller, State of Nevada

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101-1065

Phone: (702) 486-2670
Fax: (702) 486-2697
TDD: (702) 486-2698
http://www.crc.nv.gov

Testimony of Tamara Wagestar-Subrick, Executive Director, Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) and, Howard J. Silver, Executive Director, the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA).

C-FARE is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to strengthening the presence of the agricultural, natural resources, and applied economics profession to matters of science policy and federal budget determination, and we represent approximately 3,500 economists nationwide. COSSA is an advocacy organization for the social and behavioral sciences supported by more than 110 professional associations, scientific societies, universities, and research centers and institutes (a membership list is attached).

CFARE and COSSA appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 appropriation for the **Economic Research Service (ERS), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the National Institute on Food and Agriculture, particularly the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). For ERS we strongly support the Administration's request of $87.2 million. For NASS we strongly support the Administration's request of $164.7 million. For AFRI we strongly support the Administration's significant increase to $$428.8 million.**

We are grateful for the past support the Subcommittee has given to the Nation's agricultural research activity. Our organizations understand the challenges your panel faces in choosing how to allocate constrained resources in the FY 2011 budget. Secretary Vilsack has committed the Department of Agriculture to improving its scientific endeavors. As Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan told a group of USDA stakeholders on March 17, in the FY 2011 budget "research has triumphed." The Department is joining many other agencies in advancing a research agenda to tackle many of the Nation's difficult problems: climate change, energy consumption, obesity, and revitalizing rural communities. We hope that you can agree with the Administration that research, economics, and statistics are important priorities for the Nation's rural agenda.

Most world agricultural research advances in recent history have originated in the United States. These developments improve human, plant, and animal health and welfare. For instance, research in animal genomics helps to develop better science in human health. Improvements in soil and crop technology influenced the "Green Revolution" in many developing countries. Progress with food and nutrition research helps the quality and expectations of life for our nation's children. We would be remiss if we did not mention that all of these areas should be applauded for their expertise and enormous contributions to the world food and agriculture system. These advances also benefited from the social and economic research that allowed their adoption and effectiveness. With new tools for data collection and analysis, advances in social and economic analysis also provides research on trade issues which keep the United States as a predominant player in world markets.

In real dollars, recent decades have seen a slowdown in federal investment in agricultural research. Even when faced with this challenge, the rate of return for agricultural and rural research has continued at high levels. For 35 studies published over 1965-2005 that were reviewed by Professors Wallace Huffman (Iowa State University) and Robert Evenson (Yale University), the median estimate of the social rate of return was 45 percent per year . As a rough approximation, this implies that each dollar spent on agricultural research returned about $10 worth of benefits to the economy. (See *Economic Returns to Public Agricultural Research*, by Keith O. Fuglie and Paul W. Heisey, EB-10, USDA, Economic Research Service, September 2007, available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eb10/.)

With the above information in mind, we are writing to applaud the administration's proposed FY 2011 budget support levels for many of the areas of the agricultural budget that have a strong economic and social research component. Our organization's priorities for the Administration's request are listed below.

ERS – Under its highly effective Administrator Kitty Smith, the ERS performs valuable research, data collection, and analysis to inform public and private decision makers and the public about Rural America. This information is important for our scientists as well to estimate the impacts of farm policy changes. ERS produces information and analyses to inform policy and program decisions made across the spectrum of USDA missions. The increase proposed for the FY 2011 budget would allow ERS to improve its data collections and analyses. This includes an increase of $2 million, which would develop data and conduct economic research on the access to affordable and nutritious local foods in low income communities.

We are also delighted that ERS has been chosen to take the lead in helping to create a "community of practice" across the Federal statistical agencies to improve their capabilities as well as to pilot an administrative data project. Administrative data, information collected in conjunction with administering government programs, provide an opportunity for increasing the statistical ability to understand and address critical policy issues

NASS – NASS led by its valuable Administrator Cynthia Clark, collects and analyzes data to provide the necessary information to keep agricultural markets stable and efficient and to help maintain a consistency for all users of agricultural statistics. The FY 2011 budget request reflects priority funding areas to provide data that will help enhance the sustainability of our nation's resources. These include:

- **County Estimates Program.** The budget includes an increase of $5 million to improve the data quality of the County Estimates program.

- **Climate Change.** Within the agricultural estimation program, an increase of $0.8 million is proposed that will allow NASS to enhance its remote sensing activities.

- **Organic Agriculture Study.** An increase of $0.5 million is proposed within the agricultural estimation program that will allow NASS to develop an ongoing data series on organic production, handling and distribution.

- **Census of Agriculture.** The 2011 budget includes funding to support the second year of the 2012 Census of Agriculture's five year cycle.

NIFA - NIFA, formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, is responsible for administering USDA's primary competitive research grants program, the

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) which supports investigator-initiated research with strong potential to contribute to major breakthroughs in agricultural science. The FY 2011 budget proposes a substantial increase in competitive research funding.

Roger Beachy, the director of NIFA and USDA's Chief Scientist, in a series of speeches to the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology, the Social Sciences Subcommittee of the Experiment Stations' Committee on Public Policy, and other groups, has laid out the high priority areas for AFRI in FY 2011. They are bioenergy, global climate change, global food security, and nutrition and health. In all of these the social and economic sciences have a role to play.

It is clear that the new priorities being pursued by NIFA clearly align with the strengths of our nation's agricultural researchers, many in the land-grant university system. Yet, at the same time, it is also unmistakable that the socioeconomic health and stability of many rural people and places is no longer rooted in agriculture. Only one in five non-metropolitan counties are classified as agriculture dependent today. Rural people are concerned about quality schools, health care access, decent and sustainable jobs, quality housing, available/affordable broadband services, wise use of natural resources, population migration, and more.

There is a strong need to remember that research and educational outreach activities on these issues are needed to advance the long-term vitality of rural communities and regions. Social and economic scientists, some attached to the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers, could harness NIFA investments in comprehensive rural development research/extension activities that would benefit America's rural communities. We request that the Committee encourage NIFA to acknowledge these important issues that affect rural America and to provide funding for social and behavioral scientists to address these needs.

In summary, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to approve the requested increases in funding for the Economic Research Service, the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Improving research and data on agriculture and rural America will strongly contribute to a stronger, healthier, more competitive, and prosperous nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. If you have any question or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact us: Tamara Wagestar-Subrick tamarawagestar@cfare.org or Howard Silver silverhj@cossa.org.

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

GOVERNING MEMBERS

American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Geographers
Association of American Law Schools
Law and Society Association
Linguistic Society of America
Midwest Political Science Association
National Communication Association
Population Association of America
Rural Sociological Society
Society for Research in Child Development

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Association for Agricultural Education
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations
Association of Research Libraries
American Psychosomatic Society
Council on Social Work Education
Eastern Sociological Society
International Communication Association
Justice Research and Statistics Association
Midwest Sociological Society
National Association of Social Workers
North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Social Science History Association
Society for Behavioral Medicine
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Social Work and Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Southern Political Science Association
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Arizona State University
Brown University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
Carnegie-Mellon University
University of Chicago
Clark University
Columbia University
University of Connecticut
Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
George Mason University
George Washington University
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Kansas State University
University of Maryland
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
New York University
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
University of South Carolina
Stanford University
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University of Texas, Brownsville
Texas A & M University
Tulane University
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Washington University in St. Louis
University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Yale University

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

American Academy of Political and Social Sciences
American Council of Learned Societies
American Institutes for Research
Brookings Institution
Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research
Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
Institute for Women's Policy Research
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Opinion Research Center
Population Reference Bureau
Social Science Research Council

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

Testimony of John N. Moore, Senior Attorney
Environmental Law & Policy Center
on behalf of the following organizations:

25 x '25
Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions
Clean Energy States Alliance
Climate Solutions
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law & Policy Center
National Association of State Energy Officials
The Minnesota Project
Windustry

Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
on
Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture, Rural Development and FDA Appropriations
March 22, 2010

Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony on the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations legislation. The Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) is pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of several organizations. In summary, for 2011 we encourage the Subcommittee to provide discretionary funding for the following two U.S. Department of Agriculture programs at levels at or exceeding the President's 2011 budget:

- **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill** (President's budget - $39 million).
    - Of the Subcommittee's appropriated amount for REAP, the Subcommittee should allocate 4% to REAP's Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance program (REAP § 9007(b))[1];
- **Biorefinery Assistance Program (BAP), Section 9003 of the 2008 Farm Bill** (President's budget - $17 million).

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[1] As explained below, the EA-REDA component of REAP currently is funded only with a 4% set-aside from *mandatory* funding.

35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60601-2110
Phone: (312) 673-6500 Fax: (312) 795-3730 www.elpc.org elpcinfo@elpc.org
Harry Drucker - Chairperson Howard A. Learner - Executive Director

These two programs – neither of which received funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – can help to resuscitate our nation's economy and boost producer income. They will improve environmental quality and generate billions of dollars in new economic activity across the country, especially in rural areas.

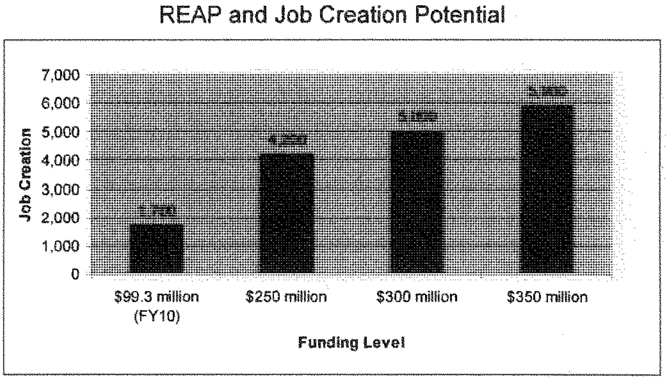
Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Conceived in the 2002 Farm Bill, REAP is a strong success, with more than 3,500 clean energy project awards in every state since the program's first year in 2003. Farmers and rural small businesses are using REAP to build new clean energy projects for wind and solar power, biodiesel, anaerobic digesters and other biomass, and geothermal. Critically, REAP helps rural consumers cut energy costs through energy efficiency upgrades. REAP also helps rural electric cooperatives, ag extension offices and other non-profits to conduct energy technical assistance to assess rural clean energy needs and make improvements.

A. REAP's Strong Job Creation Benefits

ELPC has calculated REAP's job creation benefits at current and higher funding levels. Our analysis is based on employment data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for clean energy industries in combination with REAP project awards.

Our calculations show that REAP produces nearly 17 jobs per $1 million of investment. REAP's job creation levels are higher than most other government-funded programs.[2]



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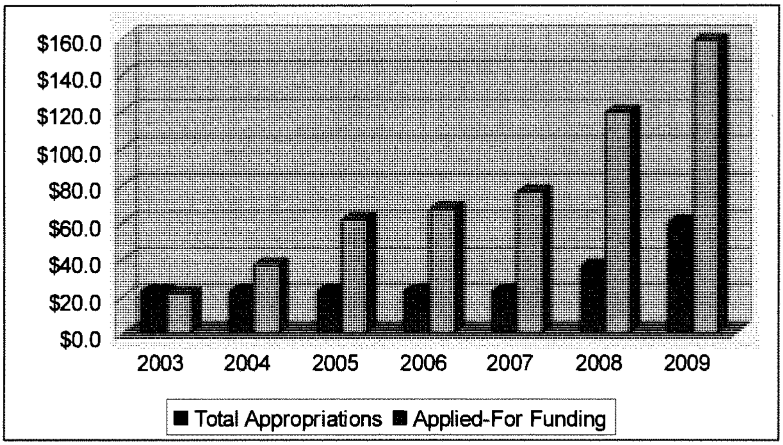
[2] *See* Testimony of Dr. Robert Pollin, Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, before the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor (Oct. 24, 2008), at page 3.

B. Funding Recommendation

REAP is very popular and is far oversubscribed by farmers and rural small businesses. Demand grows every year, with funding requests typically exceeding the available funding by up to a 3:1 margin:

REAP Demand Far Outpaces Funding



Program demand would be even greater with more funding (because people do not apply due to modest funding) and more effective outreach.

For these reasons, including the need to further implement the Energy Audit-Renewable Energy Assistance Program (see below), we recommend that the Subcommittee provide at least $39 million in discretionary funding for the REAP program.

C. Commit 4% of REAP Discretionary Funding to REAP's Energy Audit-Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program

New in the 2008 Farm Bill, REAP now includes an Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program (EA-REDA). *See* REAP § 9007(b). It provides funding for USDA to issue competitive grants to state and regional entities (state governments, universities, rural electric cooperatives, and others) to help farmers and rural businesses become more energy efficient and effectively use renewable energy technologies. This new component of REAP is critical for helping states jump-start their farm energy efforts.

EA-REDA also has immediate job creation and protection benefits. It is a labor-intensive program, since both energy audits and renewable energy development assistance require skilled labor to perform these services.

In its first year of existence in 2009, USDA awarded $2.1 million in EA-REDA grants for 22 projects, and demand far exceeded EA-REDA's funding:

EA-REDA Program (REAP § 9007(b)) **FY2010 Program Results**		
Funded Applications	22	$2,173,631
Unfunded Applications	67	$5,698,972
TOTAL	**89**	**$7,872,603**

EA-REDA is funded through a 4% set-aside in REAP (§ 9007(g)(2)(A)), which authorizes USDA to use 4% of REAP's *mandatory* appropriations for EA-REDA. The statute is somewhat ambiguous on whether USDA can use any *discretionary* funding for EA-REDA, and to date USDA has not done so.

Well-designed energy technical assistance programs maximize energy savings and clean energy generation by identifying the best investments. Committing 4% of REAP's discretionary appropriations to the EA-REDA program therefore would further accelerate REAP's energy, economic and environmental success.

Therefore, to align the Subcommittee's REAP funding with the 4% statutory set-aside from mandatory funding, and to help meet strong demand for energy technical assistance, we recommend that the Subcommittee commit 4% of its REAP appropriation to EA-REDA..

Biorefinery Assistance Program

BAP provides critical financing for our nation's first generation of commercial-scale advanced biorefineries, providing well-paying construction and operation jobs in rural communities. The BAP also:

- Increases our energy independence,
- Promotes conservation of resources and a cleaner environment, and
- Diversifies markets for farm and forestry products.

The BAP also can help existing plants adopt advanced biofuel technologies using sustainable cellulosic feedstocks grown by American farmers.

BAP is a strong clean energy jobs generator. According to a 2009 report on the economic benefits of an advanced biofuels industry, a robust domestic advanced biofuels industry could create nearly 100,000 direct new jobs by 2016 and generate more than $17 billion in economic output by then:[3]

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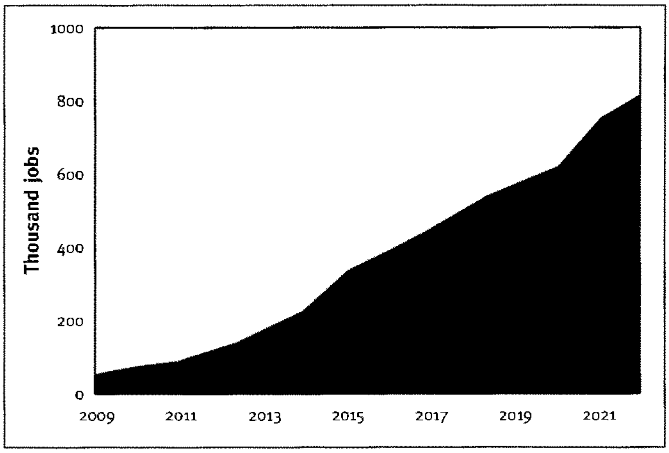
[3] *U.S. Economic Impact of Advanced Biofuels Production: Perspectives to 2030*, bio-era, pp. 1, 12 (Feb. 2009).

Advanced Biofuels Industry Predicted Job Growth



For these reasons, and to help ensure a consistent source of financing for advanced biorefinery projects, we recommend that the Subcommittee meets or exceeds the President's $17 million discretionary budget for the Biorefinery Assistance program.

Conclusion

On behalf of ELPC and the other organizations joining in this testimony, I appreciate the Subcommittee's consideration of our recommendations. We recognize that the Subcommittee faces serious budgetary constraints and competing priorities. For the reasons stated above, funding for these programs in the Energy Title should receive priority consideration within a fiscally responsible appropriations bill. With strong bipartisan national interest in agriculture-based energy solutions, we urge you to provide sufficient discretionary appropriations to allow these programs to continue to catalyze jobs, rural economic development, and environmental progress throughout America.

FARMERS
MARKET
COALITION

February 18, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member, Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The Administration's 2011 budget requests $4 million for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to "**provide point of sale terminals to all farmers' markets nationally that cannot currently redeem SNAP benefits.**" As the budget request states, ensuring farmers markets have point of sales devices will substantially increase the redemption of SNAP benefits at these outlets. In 2009, only .07% of all SNAP sales (in dollars) occurred at the fewer than 1,000 farmers markets currently accepting it. We know that we as a nation can do better. We agree with the President that "Nutrition education and human resource capacity to continue to be a key part of the SNAP to help low income households improve their nutrition levels."

This request is important and timely. In support of this initiative, the Farmers Market Coalition is undertaking a comprehensive study to develop policy and program implementation recommendations for expanding and sustaining EBT usage at farmers markets in the United States. The report of this study will be published in June. In the course of this research, it has become increasingly clear that the successful implementation of SNAP at farmers markets requires far more than the provision of wireless point of sale devices. Technical assistance for new markets to implement programs and funding for existing markets to do the required outreach, recordkeeping, and evaluation are needed most. This is the missing link that could dramatically increase the rate of SNAP redemption at farmers markets.

We strongly **encourage you to support this $4 million provision** for wireless point of sale devices for EBT transactions at farmers markets. However, **we firmly believe that this funding should be available to support inter-agency collaborations between SNAP agencies, state farmers market associations**, and other on the ground partners to first identify markets which would benefit the most from SNAP implementation. Additionally, at **least 20% of this amount should be allocated to technical assistance** provided by a network of experienced farmers market practitioners on the ground who can help ensure that SNAP does not become an added burden to these small, community-based organizations A portion of this technical assistance funding should also be available to existing

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info@farmersmarketcoalition.org • 304-263-6396 • 877-FMC-0553 • www.farmersmarketcoalition.org

farmers markets that redeem SNAP but want to increase their rate of redemption and need funds for outreach, staffing and recordkeeping. **We also urge you to ensure that state SNAP agencies cover the variable and fixed costs associated with EBT transactions, as is the case already in California and Iowa.**

This proposed provision is one small-step in the federal budget, but a giant leap for the long-term ability of farmers markets to dramatically improve health in the neighborhoods that need it most. As you consider the President's budget request for 2011, we would be happy to talk with you further about the ways in which we as a nation can support the growth and long-term sustainability of farmers markets for the benefit of farmers, consumers, and communities.

Thank you for all that you do to support farmers markets in the United States!

Sincerely,

Stacy M. Miller

Stacy Miller,
Executive Director

and the FMC Policy Committee

Bernadine Prince, FRESHFARM Markets
Washington, DC

Jim Bingen, Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

Michael Hurwitz, NYC Greenmarket
New York City, NY

Cc: Kevin Concannon
Under Secretary, Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Julie Paradis
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service
United States Department of Agriculture

FasterCures
The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions

PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET

BY MARGARET ANDERSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF *FASTERCURES/THE CENTER FOR ACCELERATING MEDICAL SOLUTIONS*

U.S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 19, 2009

Chairwoman DeLauro, Representative Kingston, and members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of *FasterCures*, I am writing to thank you for your continued support of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over the past several appropriation cycles and to urge you to once again authorize an increase in the fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget for this critical agency. *FasterCures* is a nonprofit think tank and center of the Milken Institute that works across sectors and diseases to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the medical research enterprise, and we view improvements at FDA as key to accelerating progress in disease research.

Together with the Alliance for a Stronger FDA, of which we are a member, *FasterCures* recommends that the budget authority appropriation for FDA in FY11 be increased to $2.857 billion. This figure does not include user fees; it refers to federally appropriated funds only and represents a $495 million increase over the FY10 budget and a $341 million increase over the President's request for FY11. This increase would ensure that the FDA could not only adequately sustain its existing activities at their current levels, but also continue to meet its increasingly robust set of public health and safety responsibilities without compromising its scientific base.

Regulatory science is the backbone that supports all other FDA activities. It must be strengthened to provide better tools, standards and pathways to evaluate products under development and help patients benefit from biomedical advances.

- In recent years, U.S. investments in research have generated a tremendous amount of knowledge about the relationship between molecular information and human health. Yet the development of new therapies has declined, and the cost to develop them has increased.
- We need 21st century science to support the evaluation of 21st century medical products.
- Improvements in regulatory science will support better assessment of drug and device safety, and create efficiencies in the development process.

Deficiencies in capital – human, scientific and financial – are creating a widening gap between the microscope and the marketplace, and hindering the FDA's ability to achieve its mission.

- Staffing levels from the 2010 appropriation have only just been restored to the previous high level achieved in 1994.
- Increasing internationalization, scientific complexity and drug development costs add mounting pressure on the agency.
    - It takes about fifteen years, on average, to take a promising scientific discovery from the research lab through the development, testing and regulatory review approval process, and get it into the hands of patients.
    - For the more than 100 million Americans who suffer from cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, heart disease and others for which there are no cures – and in many cases, few meaningful treatment options – this is simply too long to wait.

Problems are growing, while capacity is shrinking.

- While new responsibilities continue to be added, the FDA's base is eroding.
- CDRH staff, including its field force, has decreased in recent years, while scientific discovery continues to move at a rapid pace.
- Generic drug submissions outpace the capacity to review them.

A consistent multi-year funding approach is essential.

- The Institute of Medicine, U.S. Government Accountability Office, and FDA Science Board have highlighted deficiencies in the FDA's ability to carry out its responsibilities, noting resource limitations.
- The Science Board report (December 2007) is particularly clear that a fundamental source of problems is chronic under-funding.
- No systemic improvement is likely without resources to increase food science and inspection capacity, further fund drug and device approvals and safety monitoring, and upgrade mission-critical information technology systems.

Compared with other public health agencies, the FDA's budget is still relatively small, and out of alignment with its growing responsibilities.

- The FDA is responsible for regulating products that represent one-quarter of all consumer spending.
- Twenty-five years ago, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were roughly the same size, but since that time, the CDC's compound annual growth rate has grown to nearly double that of FDA.
- With over 80% of its budget going to staff and operational costs – including salary and benefits for approximately 10,000 employees as well as rent, supplies, telecommunications, etc. – at the current rate of growth, the agency will not be able to sustain, much less grow, its current scope.
- FDA needs excellent staff with cutting edge scientific expertise, but it also needs strong, selective scientific research programs that are appropriately mission-driven in all of the areas of FDA responsibility (e.g. generic biologic review, adverse event tracking, drug import field exams, foreign manufacturing facility review, etc.)

Increasing the FDA's budget in FY11 will strengthen its ability to operate a modern, scientifically-based regulatory program.

- The FDA must be strong enough to accept the baton of innovation from the research community in order to ensure that patients are able to benefit from advances in biomedical and laboratory science.

We commend Dr. Hamburg and the agency for their commitment to excellence and for recognizing the valuable role of regulatory science in creating new pathways and standards for product development and approval.

Attached is a chart that breaks down our budget request by function, comparing it to both the President's request and previous year's budgets.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

ALLIANCE FOR A
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www.StrengthenFDA.org

President Obama's FY 11 Request for the FDA Compared to the Alliance for a Stronger FDA's FY 11 Request

(with further comparison to FY 08, 09 and 10)

Budget Authority Appropriations (does not include user fees)

Function Note: budget authority only, by center	**FY 08 Actual (December 2007)**	**FY 09 Final (March 2009)**	**FY 10 Final (October 2009)**	**FY 11 Alliance Request**	**FY 11 President's Request**
Food	$ 510 million	$ 649 million	$ 784 million	$ 955 million	$ 856 million
Human Drugs	$ 353 million	$ 413 million	$ 465 million	$ 580 million	$ 484 million
Biologics	$ 155 million	$ 183 million	$ 206 million	$ 255 million	$ 215 million
Animal Drugs/Feed	$ 97 million	$ 116 million	$ 135 million	$ 165 million	$ 141 million
Devices & Radiological Health	$ 238 million	$ 280 million	$ 315 million	$ 385 million	$ 326 million
Natl. Ctr. For Toxicological Research	$ 44 million	$ 52 million	$ 59 million	$ 72 million	$ 61 million
HQ, Office of Commissioner and Other	$ 97 million	$ 121 million	$ 144 million	$ 183 million	$ 162 million
Rent & Facilities Cost	$ 220 million	$ 223 million	$ 237 million	$ 250 million	$ 259 million
SUBTOTAL, Salaries and Expenses	**$ 1.714 billion** (+$145M over FY 07)	**$ 2.039 billion** (+$325M over FY 08)	**$ 2.346 billion** (+$307M over FY 09)	**$ 2.845 billion**	**$2.504 billion**
Building and Facilities Repair	$ 8 million	$ 16 million	$ 16 million	$ 12 million	$ 12 million
TOTAL, ALL Budget Authority Appropriations (no user fees)	**$1.722 billion**	**$2.055 billion**	**$ 2.362 billion**	**$ 2.857 billion** (Proposes + $495M over FY10)	**$2.516 billion** **(Proposes $154 million over FY 10)**

Because OMB includes new and proposed user fees in their totals, these numbers vary considerably from those being discussed by the Administration and reported by many sources.

Subsequently, the Administration amended its request to ask for an additional $8 million for earmarks within the food program. This is reflected in the chart, but may not be in all budget descriptions.

Testimony of
Mark O. Lively, Ph.D., President
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

FY 2011 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

Submitted to the
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture

Representative Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Representative Jack Kingston, Ranking Member

March 19, 2010

On behalf of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), **we respectfully request the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the United States Department of Agriculture be funded at $500 million in FY 2011.** FASEB strongly believes we must magnify the breadth and competitive nature of the agricultural research portfolio, to ensure the United States' economic vitality and the well-being of all Americans.

As a Federation of 23 scientific societies, FASEB represents more than 90,000 life scientists and engineers, making us the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. FASEB's mission is to advance health and welfare by promoting progress and education in biological and biomedical sciences, including the research funded by AFRI, through service to its member societies and collaborative advocacy. FASEB enhances the ability of scientists and engineers to improve—through their research—the health, well-being, and productivity of all people.

Greater investment in basic and applied agricultural research is essential as the demands for a safer and more nutritious food supply, cutting-edge biofuels, and a solution to global climate change continue to increase. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 established the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), under which AFRI, the nation's premiere, competitive agricultural research program, is housed. AFRI integrates basic research, which provides the seeds from which all scientific and technological advancement will grow, with translational and applied research, which brings these key discoveries to our nation's farms and citizens' daily lives. A report by the Economic Research Service (ERS) found "strong and consistent evidence that investment in agricultural research has yielded high returns per dollar spent," citing mean rates of returns of 53 percent.[1] The opportunities presented by the reorganization of NIFA and AFRI have made this an ideal time to renew our nation's investment in agricultural science. Although last year's appropriation was a significant step forward towards the authorized level of $700 million, FASEB feels that additional investment is required in order to maintain the current high level of research output while providing sufficient resources to address the new priorities added to AFRI, by Congress, in the Farm Bill.

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[1] Fuglie, KO and Heisey PW. (2007) *Economic returns to public agricultural research.* USDA Economic Research Service, Economic Brief # 10. http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EB10/

Agriculture and the research that advances it remain of crucial importance to our economy and quality of life. Research supported by the USDA contributes to our understanding of the nutrition that underlies our health; it protects human life and our food supply from pandemic disease and introduced pathogens; it allows us to respond quickly to emerging issues like swine flu or foot and mouth disease; and it has led the way in development of bioenergy resources and technologies to address the societal challenge of climate change.

HUMAN NUTRITION, HEALTH, AND POLICY

Nutrition is the foundation upon which human and animal health is built, and whose mysteries fascinate the American people like no other aspect of science. This is perhaps most evident in the daily news stories that discuss the optimal diet required to maximize health or minimize risk of disease. Research has proven the critical role that nutrition plays in a myriad of health conditions, from cancer to heart disease to diabetes, and AFRI is directing renewed efforts to tackle the epidemic of obesity. The USDA is uniquely positioned to conduct nutrition and food-related research because of its integrated perspective on the entire food system, from crop to livestock to food supply to human consumption. No other agency has the capacity to understand the connection between food, the food supply and its production, and the health of our nation.

FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY

In recent years, greater attention has been paid to food safety and international food security. The research programs of the USDA are at the forefront of developing new technologies to protect our food supply and are discovering new ways to detect and neutralize threats to our crops, livestock, and food products. Research topics range from food-borne illnesses to microbial resistance to food processing safety to biosecurity at our borders. Agricultural research is addressing concerns not only related to our domestic supply of foods, but also those items that we import from international partners. As the U.S. forges new ties and reinforces existing relationships in our increasingly global economy, it becomes even more critically important to ensure that agricultural research is delivering the knowledge to protect our citizens and the foods they eat. In addition, U.S. diplomatic efforts and international relations frequently focus on international food security, particularly in the developing world. Research funded by AFRI is enhancing food quality and value, bringing sustainable solutions to the rest of the world, and opening up new global markets for U.S. producers.

BIOENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Agricultural and forestry resources are vitally important to both our development of bio-based resources and our ability to address the threat of climate change. Bioenergy has the potential not only to reduce our dependence on foreign oil but also to provide a clean, sustainable fuel source that will mitigate the factors contributing to global climate change. The USDA funds research projects that produce science-based knowledge and technologies supporting the efficient, economical, and environmentally friendly conversion of biomass into value-added industrial products and biofuels. Furthermore, USDA funded research is responding to the issue of climate change by contributing to our understanding of the causes and effects of this phenomenon and how to best protect our natural resources.

RESPONDING TO EMERGING THREATS

When beekeepers across the country began to report the alarming and mysterious loss of 50-90 percent of bees from their hives, USDA took the lead in mobilizing research resources to find the source of what is now known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Assisted by the recent completion of the sequencing of the honeybee genome and cutting-edge microarray technology, AFRI is funding strategies to protect our domestic bee supply and improve the long-term viability of U.S. apiculture. This is only one example of how a unique and emerging agricultural threat can swiftly challenge our nation's economy, health or food supply, and can be surmounted through support of scientific discovery. A new outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Europe, the looming specter of swine flu, and the continuing threat of mad cow disease all illustrate the need for the research resources required to address new and emerging pathogens and diseases. Only with an adequately funded agriculture research infrastructure can our nation be prepared to react and rapidly counter threats to our health and food supply.

ATTRACTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS

In order to ensure that our agricultural research enterprise remains at the cutting-edge of science and technology, it is critically important that our best and brightest minds are attracted to addressing the key questions in agriculture. Recruiting and retaining scientists in agriculture depends on a robust investment in competitive research funding. Without a stronger commitment to agricultural research, there is danger that talented researchers will turn to opportunities available from other funding sources, to the detriment of our nation's agricultural goals. Moreover, conquering societal challenges related to agriculture, from sustainability of the food supply to global climate change, will require the recruitment of scientists from disciplines not traditionally associated with agriculture, such as mathematicians, engineers, and molecular biologists. To develop the 21st century agricultural research workforce, AFRI must become an integral piece of the U.S. vision for science and technology.

ADDRESSING ISSUES UNIQUE TO RURAL AMERICA

The USDA is the only agency whose competitive research program is committed to addressing the unique needs of citizens living in rural areas throughout the nation. By supporting integrated projects focusing on developing sustainable rural communities as well as seeking strategies to revitalize the economic vitality of rural regions, AFRI is funding research that will ultimately bolster our rural workforce, enhance infrastructure access for rural communities, and reduce competitive pressures between production practices and environmental conservation. Furthermore, multidisciplinary approaches involving education, extension, and AFRI-supported research are addressing agroecosystem challenges related to the intensification of farming practices due to increased demands on agricultural yields. These projects will bring feasible, ecologically sound, and economically viable best practices in production management to producers in rural America.

THE UNITED STATES IS BEST SERVED THROUGH INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

From the basic research supported at universities throughout the nation to the important work carried out by the Human Nutrition Research Centers, USDA research programs deserve to be supported at the highest level possible. As USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said at the launch of NIFA, “I am asking today for a commitment of will and energy to bring about our generation's new era of agricultural science. I look forward to charting a course together to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery in the agricultural sciences, speed the application of new knowledge to address challenges facing US and global food and agriculture, and translate new knowledge into tangible benefits for the American people and the world.”

FASEB recommends the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the United States Department of Agriculture be funded at $500 million in FY 2011.

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Formerly named
America's Second Harvest

March 18, 2010

Written Testimony of Vicki Escarra, President and CEO, Feeding America.

Hearing by House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and related Agencies on the FY2011 USDA - FNS Budget Request.

Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the President's FY2011 Budget for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As President and CEO of Feeding America, I am pleased to be able to share with you the needs and interests of the more than 37 million people served by our network of 200 food banks and more than 62,000 local feeding agencies. I also want to thank you and your colleagues for the continuing and generous support this Subcommittee has always provided for nutrition programs, and for your leadership in the fight to end hunger in this nation.

As you know, our network and those we serve are heavily reliant on the programs administered by the FNS. We greatly appreciate the difficult challenges this agency takes on in administering our nation's domestic nutrition assistance programs. Over the years we have formed a wonderful partnership with FNS and its regional offices. Federal commodity donation programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) have made it possible for our network to provide millions of pounds of nutritious foods to the food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and after school programs (like Kids Cafes) that we operate throughout the country. This partnership and our close working relationship with FNS also has helped our network engage in promoting and supporting other nutrition programs, like SNAP, Child Nutrition and WIC

If we are ever going to end hunger in this country we must make sure to work together so that the 49 million people in our nation who are defined by USDA as "Food Insecure" are able to fully access the critically important tools provided by Federal nutrition programs.

TEFAP and Commodity Distribution Programs

The Feeding America food bank network depends on USDA commodities to ensure a guaranteed supply of foods to distribute to our pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and community feeding programs. In FY2009, a total of $2.2 billion worth of food was distributed through our food banks and local agencies. The value of TEFAP and CSFP commodities accounted for $436 million of this amount.

Feeding America food banks are the largest user of commodities provided through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This program provides a consistent source of food that allows many feeding agencies to keep their doors open, and as noted above, helps us leverage private, charitable donations to significantly expand the amount of food and resources we are able to distribute through our food bank network

With the generous support of this Congress in enacting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), funding for TEFAP commodities was increased by $150 million for FY2009 and FY2010. Of this amount states could use $50 million for distribution grants. Unfortunately, the additional commodities bought with the ARRA funding will run out by the end of March, 2010. Sadly, the numbers of people (already at record levels) who are

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coming to our agencies for food assistance continues to grow as unemployment remains high. The rising demand, together with a significant decline in available bonus commodities for the program and the end of ARRA commodities is seriously depleting our food inventories, and many of our feeding agencies soon may be facing empty shelves. We estimate that an additional $200 million in TEFAP commodity assistance is needed to continue serving the growing numbers of people who are seeking food assistance through emergency feeding agencies.

Feeding America recommends that an additional $200 million be added in emergency funding for TEFAP commodities to ensure that emergency feeding programs can continue to serve the growing numbers of hungry Americans coming to them for help.

As in past years, the Administration budget proposal for TEFAP commodity distribution grants requests the same amount ($50 million) to help state and local agencies with the costs of storing, transporting and distributing TEFAP commodities. Funding to protect the food commodities and transport and distribute them is critically important, especially now that many states are facing budget crises that are challenging their ability to fund this essential work. It has been very difficult to cover these costs as demand has increased, and we are hopeful that the Subcommittee will find more funding to help make sure the food we have can be safely stored, transported and distributed.

Feeding America recommends that that the Committee fully fund the TEFAP grant program for commodity distribution at the fully authorized level of $100 million.

The Administration budget request proposes to zero out the $6 million in funding for TEFAP infrastructure grants that was approved by this Committee for FY2010. These grants, yet to be awarded by the Administration for FY2010, are critically important to help food banks with the costs of maintaining and improving their facilities and equipment and ensuring safe food storage and handling. Many of our food banks, particularly those located in rural areas are struggling to update their facilities and equipment. Efforts to improve the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables distributed also are hindered by outdated refrigeration and storage units. Moreover, the poor economy in many regions is handicapping efforts to raise sufficient private funding for capitol improvement projects.

We recommend that the USDA release the Infrastructure grant funding appropriated by the Committee for FY2010 as quickly as possible, and that the Committee continue to fund this extremely important program to our network.

The Administration budget request recommends $176.8 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. More than one-third of our food banks operate CSFPs in states approved for this program. We are pleased that your Committee has long-supported the CSFP, which is critically important to so many needy elderly and young mothers and children. The addition of new states to this program last year has opened the way for many more hungry people to receive the nourishment they need. It is our hope that caseloads in states with programs can be increased and that over time more states and localities will be able to offer CSFPs. The decline in bonus commodities available to this and other nutrition programs is worrisome, and we hope that this does not impede progress in reaching the many people, especially seniors, who require the nutritious supplemental food packages provided by the CSFP.

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We support the Administration proposal for CSFP funding for FY2011 and the position of our colleagues in the national CSFP Association.

Child Nutrition

Recognizing the many gaps in our child nutrition programs, our food banks are heavily engaged in promoting and feeding children through innovative child nutrition programs. Along with offering nutritious foods to over 14 million children through our food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens, our food banks operate more than 1,600 Kids Cafes serving more than 115,000 children each year. These after school programs are able to operate with support from the Child and Adult Care Food program and private donations. They are run in a wide variety of local settings like Boys and Girls clubs, churches, community centers, and schools. Kids Café programs had their origin in Savannah, Georgia, where in 1989 two young brothers were found late one night searching for something to eat in a housing project community kitchen.

More recently, our food banks have taken on the issue of gaps in our child nutrition programs by initiating weekend feeding programs for low income children. These programs, commonly known as BackPack programs, operate in partnership with local schools and community agencies and provide child-friendly, non-perishable, nutritious foods for children to take home on the last day before a weekend or school holiday. BackPack programs originated in Little Rock, Arkansas after a school nurse noticed that many children were coming to her on Mondays complaining of stomach aches and dizziness and contacted the local food bank to ask for help. There now are more than 140 Feeding America members and partner organizations operating 3,600 BackPack programs that serve more than 190,000 children.

The Administration FY2011 budget for Child Nutrition Programs would maintain current services for all of the current programs. More importantly it proposes to increase funding for child nutrition programs by $1 billion annually (or $10 billion over 10 years) to make the changes to these programs that are required to help achieve the President's goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015. Feeding America fully supports the President's ambitious and achievable goal and budget proposal.

Child Nutrition programs are the foundation upon which to build a nation where all of our children have access to the nutritious foods essential to help them learn and thrive and lead healthy and productive lives. It is critically important that comprehensive child nutrition reauthorization legislation be enacted this year, and that enough funding be provided to make this happen.

Too many low-income children in this country are unable to access child nutrition programs when they need them. For example, only 2.2 million children participate in the Summer Food Service Program, which is targeted to children living in low-income areas. This compares to some 19 million low-income children receiving free and reduced price school lunches during the school year. Summer food and child care feeding programs are handicapped by excessive sponsor requirements, proscriptive eligibility rules and administrative and paperwork burdens that limit access to these programs and reduce cost efficiencies. At a time when state and local governments are struggling with budget cutbacks, these administrative barriers hinder sponsorship of federal nutrition programs that could help millions of children without adding fiscal burdens to states and communities.

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Feeding America recommends that changes to child nutrition programs be accomplished this year to expand their quality and reach to all children, and that the gaps in current services be filled. Our priorities call for (1) expanding the reach and quality of foods for hungry children in schools, child care. After school and summer sites; (2) providing start-up funding and outreach to increase the number of Summer Food Service programs in unserved and underserved areas; (3) funding innovative programs, like the BackPack Program, to help hungry children when they do not have access to nutrition programs, and (4) better coordinating programs and streamlining and simplifying rules that prevent or hinder the operation of child nutrition programs. [See attachment at the end for a more detailed list of Feeding America priorities.]

SNAP Outreach and Application Assistance.

Our food banks are working closely with FNS staff at the Federal, State and local level to conduct SNAP outreach. As you know, too many people who are eligible for SNAP benefits are not receiving them. Data shows that about one-third of those who are eligible for SNAP participate in this program. There are many reasons for this, and high among them are long and complicated application forms and processes. Our food banks are committed to addressing this problem by working with local Federal, state and local SNAP agencies to offer on-site application assistance to clients wading through the difficult and time-consuming process of qualifying for these critically important benefits.

While this is not part of the Administration budget request, we hope that this partnership can be continued and expanded to help more eligible SNAP recipients obtain the benefits for which they qualify.

Final Remarks

Feeding America is profoundly aware of the current economic crisis and the challenges this presents to our legislators. Our nation's nutrition programs provide the foundation upon which to build a future where all of our people have access to nutritious foods that will help them live healthy and productive lives. As they have so often in the past when our nation faced war, a Great Depression, and social and economic upheavals, federal nutrition programs offer the way to effectively respond to our current economic crisis and to the needs of those struggling to nourish themselves and their families.

Millions in this country are struggling to keep their jobs, homes, and food on the table. Food Banks and local feeding agencies often are the first to see the devastated faces of those who never imagined that they would be seeking help at a food pantry, shelter, or soup kitchen. The charitable sector has truly stepped up to try and serve the growing numbers of those in this nation who are hungry. But, as we learned in the Great Depression and are reminded of in the current Great Recession, charity alone cannot meet the need.

The government and charitable sector must work together and Federal nutrition programs must be the solid foundation upon which to build the structure that finally succeeds in ending the scourge of hunger in this nation. No one in this country should have to wonder where their next meal will come from, or how they will afford to buy nutritious foods for their families.

Thank you so much for allowing me to present this written testimony. I hope you will not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues in our Washington office if we can be of assistance in helping you and the President in finally putting an end to hunger in this nation.

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ATTACHMENT

Child Nutrition Priorities

Feeding America food banks play a critical role in directly supporting and advocating for child nutrition. In 2009, our food bank network provided food to 13.9 million children, or one out of every 5 of all children in the United States. As the Congress prepares to reauthorize and strengthen these child nutrition programs, our food banks are actively engaged in developing and promoting legislative changes that will move the nation forward in the crusade to end childhood hunger in America. President Obama's commitment to achieving this goal by the year 2015 is running behind schedule. The Congress must move quickly to complete action on a child nutrition bill that makes a substantial investment of no less than the Administration request to ensure that all of our children have access to a safe, nutritious, and healthy diet.

Our child nutrition legislative priorities will: (1) strengthen the quality and efficiency of all child nutrition programs; (2) fill the gaps in food service for millions of low-income children, and (3) offer creative ideas for new and innovative approaches to ending childhood hunger.

High on our priority list are proposals to reach more needy children through the Summer Food Service and Child and Adult Care Food Programs (SFSP & CACFP). Too many low- income children receiving free or reduced-price school lunches during the school year (some 19 million) do not have access to the SFSP, which reaches only 2.2 million children. Similarly, because of the limited number of after-school programs currently being operated through CACFP, too many low-income children find themselves without access to nourishing food after the school day ends. Moreover, as the economy worsens, many low-income children are going hungry during weekends and school holidays. The Feeding America food banks operating summer food and afterschool programs, the Kids Café program, and weekend food box (or BackPack) programs strongly urge the Congress to make the following program improvements.

Afterschool and Child Care Nutrition (Child and Adult Care Food Program)

- **Expand supper funding for At-Risk After-School Programs** beyond the current 14 states and localities (CT, DC, DE, IL, MD, MI, MO, NV, NY, OR, PA, VT, WI & WV) to all 50 states.
- **Reduce the area eligibility threshold for At-Risk After-School Programs** from 50% of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals down to 40%.
- Provide child care centers and home day cares with the option of providing a third meal.
- Provide funding for outreach to recruit new sponsors to participate in CACFP.
- Increase funding for CACFP expansion grants.
- Require the publication of a CACFP manual to help applicants and program sponsors.

Weekend Nutrition (The BackPack Program)

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- **Create a Pilot Program to fund a series of projects to explore various methods for providing food to low-income children on weekends and extended school holidays.** Require that BackPack Programs be included as a model for one or more of the pilots and include funding for a USDA evaluation.
- Provide authority for schools to designate Fruit and Vegetable Program purchases for distribution through Weekend box or BackPack Programs.

Summer Nutrition (The Summer Food Service Program; Rural Summer Initiatives)

- **Reduce the area eligibility threshold for SFSP** from areas where 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to areas where 40% are eligible.
- **Expand the California SFSP pilot**, which authorized use of the SFSP program year round, to more or all states, with the provision that meals may be served afterschool year round to reduce need for separate program applications and criteria for summer and CACFP afterschool programs.
- **Increase the percentage of second meals that sponsors may be reimbursed for** to recognize the variable nature of attendance in the summer and the need to reduce food waste.
- **Provide outreach funding** to get new *sponsors/sites/participants* into the SFSP program by, among other things, providing funding for USDA and/or states to develop and implement aggressive outreach programs to get more *children* into summer food programs, and offering Start-up grants for new SFSP sponsors to encourage them to begin new programs
- **Eliminate the restrictions on non-profit sponsors** on the number of operating sites and participants they may serve.
- **Create a series of pilot programs to explore innovative methods of reaching more children through the SFSP in underserved areas** [NOTE: FY2010 appropriations provided $85 million for USDA to test innovative methods for reaching children in the summer.] Ideas we recommend include:
    - **Funding for mobile meal programs.**
    - **Creation of a commodity box program pilot,** targeted to children in rural areas that are not served through traditional congregate meal programs. Operated through schools, government, or non-profit agencies using school meals data to identify need, with option of picking up a box of items containing the equivalent to meals received through the SFSP.

In-School Nutrition (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program)

- **Expand the School Breakfast Program to more schools and more children** by increasing school options and incentives for providing breakfasts at schools; including in-classroom breakfast options and allowing universal school breakfasts in targeted schools with high percentages of low-income students.

- **Expand the "free" meal category for school meals from 130% to 185% of poverty**, resulting in the elimination of the "reduced price" meal category.
- **Improve the nutritional quality** of meals served in schools and of foods available on the school campus.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

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- Ensure adequate funding to serve the growing caseload of women, infants, and children receiving WIC food packages and participating in the accompanying nutrition services.

Cross-Program Child Nutrition Initiatives

- **Increase base reimbursement rates** for all child nutrition programs (school meals, CACFP, SFSP, etc.) to cover the higher meal costs due to inflation and improved nutritional quality.
- **Provide for more frequent indexing** of reimbursement rates for all child nutrition programs. For example, provide semi-annual indexing and round up rates (currently rounded down).

National Office
35 E. Wacker Drive
Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60601

tel 312.263.2303
fax 312.263.5626
feedingamerica.org

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Testimony Submitted
by
Dr. Raymond Bye, Jr.
Director of Federal Relations
The Florida State University
Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
March 17, 2010

Florida State University is requesting **$5,000,000** in FY 2011 for the **Risk Reduction for Agricultural Crops Program from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the Members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to present testimony before this Committee. I would like to take a moment to briefly acquaint you with Florida State University.

Located in Tallahassee, Florida's capitol, FSU is a comprehensive Research university with a rapidly growing research base. The University serves as a center for advanced graduate and professional studies, exemplary research, and top-quality undergraduate programs. Faculty members at FSU maintain a strong commitment to quality in teaching, to performance of research and creative activities, and have a strong commitment to public service. Among the current or former faculty are numerous recipients of national and international honors including Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, and several members of the National Academy of Sciences. Our scientists and engineers do excellent research, have strong interdisciplinary interests, and often work closely with industrial partners in the commercialization of the results of their research. Florida State University had over $200 million this past year in sponsored research awards.

Florida State University attracts students from every state in the nation and more than 100 foreign countries. The University is committed to high admission standards that ensure quality in its student body, which currently includes National Merit and National Achievement Scholars, Rhodes and Goldwater Scholars, as well as students with superior creative talent. Since 2005, FSU students have won more than 30 nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships including 3 Rhodes Scholarships, 2 Truman Scholarships, Goldwater, and 18 Fulbright Fellowships.

At Florida State University, we are very proud of our successes as well as our emerging reputation as one of the nation's top public research universities. Our new President, Dr. Eric Barron, will lead FSU to new heights during his tenure.

Mr. Chairman, I bring two items of interest to you today. The first is a project vital to many of our nation's farmers and the second is our strong support for the President's FY2011 budget requests for two programs within the USDA—the Agriculture and Food Initiative and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. First, let me tell you about our project.

Droughts in the southeastern US have had significant impacts on the water resources. The Federal Government can reduce these risks by using modern technologies such as climate models, to predict future climate, and decision-support tools to help mitigate some uncertainties and provide adaptation strategies for the agricultural and environmental sectors. The Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC), which includes three Florida universities: Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Miami. The SECC has been at the forefront of research and extension for the application of climate predictions to risk reduction for agriculture and natural resources. With support from USDA and NOAA, the SECC has developed new methods to predict the consequences of climate variability and climate change for agricultural crops, forests, and water resources in the southeastern USA.

The SECC is a model for employing regional climate forecasts for agricultural purposes; because of its success, USDA has considered establishing other such regional activities throughout the US to coordinate regional research efforts. Examples of coordinated research efforts have FSU leading efforts to provide climate forecasts and risk reduction methodology. UF will translate this climate information into risks and environmental impacts on agriculture and will work with Extension to provide information to the agricultural community. UM will provide economic modeling capacities. Research efforts with other regional players in GA, AL, SC, and NC are coordinated to provide an overall regional climate strategy. Together, all university partners are developing new tools to manage climate risks to water quality. These tools and applications have strong support of extension in all these SE States.

The new tasks are to develop improved methods to forecast droughts and other extreme climate events. These forecasts will be incorporated into decision support systems to help agricultural, forest, and natural resource managers to reduce risks of losses. We will develop new partnerships and methods for incorporating climate forecasts into agricultural and water policy decisions and continue the development of a decision support system to provide seasonal and multi-year projections for agricultural water use. Lastly, we will initiate research to determine risks and appropriate agricultural responses to longer term trends in climate.

Florida State University, on behalf of the Southeast Climate Consortium, seeks $5.0 M in FY2011 for this project.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to express strong support for the President's FY2011 budget requests for two programs within the USDA.

The Agriculture and Food Initiative (AFRI) is seeking $428.845M to enhance funding levels for several areas critical to our nation's continued progress. These areas include bioenergy, global climate change, global food security, nutrition and health, and the agricultural workforce. Two areas within AFRI that we feel strongly about are providing avenues to address changes in our climate related to agriculture and programs related to nutrition and nutrition education. A second programmatic area within USDA is the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). The President has requested $68.070M for FY2011, the same level appropriated in FY2010. We understand the difficult choices that the President and your Committee must make in this difficult budget climate and, for that reason we support level funding for this important program for FY2011. Our faculty members at FSU are very involved in both these important areas, and we respectfully request that the Committee endeavor to find funding to help move these important endeavors forward in FY2011.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your consideration of our project request as well as the President's budget request for AFRI and EFNEP. Thank you.

Food Bank of the Albemarle
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March 18, 2010

Gary Gay, Director
Food Distribution Division
PO Box 659
Butner, NC 27509-0659

Dear Gary,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks in response to the request for testimony for the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee related to the consequences of reducing the TEFAP/Government Commodity administrative funding from $74.5 to $50 million for year 2011.

We believe a 33% reduction in TEFAP administrative funding will represent a minimum funding short fall of $270,000 for the Food Banks in North Carolina. The real consequences of this reduction would result in a loss of over one million meals for the hungry. In light of the current economic climate, the Food Banks need these resources to maintain the most basic level of service to the hungry.

Our Association is comprised of seven Food Banks that work within a network of partner agencies to provide food and grocery resources to over 2,700 faith-based and non-profit charities such as emergency pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, elderly nutrition programs, group homes and non-profit child care programs. More importantly, our hunger relief network touches hungry people in all 100 counties in North Carolina which according to the U.S. Census Bureau there are more than 1.6 million people in NC live in poverty – including more than 436,990 children and more than 117,270 seniors.

The Food Bank's across the state have been partnered with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture since 1997. Through this partnership we are reaching tens of thousands of families and individuals that are living with real hunger every year.

Today the numbers of hungry people seeking our services are at an unprecedented level. The unemployment rates coupled with the recession is forcing more people to seek emergency food assistance. In some areas of the state, demand for emergency food assistance has raised 40% - 75% over levels reported in 2008.

The Food Banks role has been to facilitate the receipt/distribution and administration of the TEFAP food in 75 of 100 counties. We accomplish this through our network of partner agencies who are serving hungry families and individuals. For many households in our state, the TEFAP food along side the donated food they receive at the local pantry is the only access to nutritious food they have because many rural areas of North Carolina have no transportation and no grocery stores thereby forcing people sacrifice nutrition because they must rely on the

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local gas/convenience store for all their food needs.

In fiscal year, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 our network provided over 13 million pounds of commodity food across North Carolina. To get this essential food to into the communities where people need it, the Food Banks operate distribution warehouses and maintain a modest fleet of trucks that haul anywhere from 10,000 to 40,000 pounds on every load out into the counties. We provide this service because over 80% of our Hunger Relief Partners are operated by an all volunteer staff and do not have trucks or vans that would permit the same degree of service required to meet the emergency food requirements in their community.

The dollars appropriated in the Farm Bill were greatly welcomed. However, equally important is the administrative allowance that defrays only a small portion of the cost associated with warehousing, packing and delivering those commodities. We are very concerned that any reduction in administrative funding will strain our ability to provide essential services to the people we serve across the state.

Reduced administrative funding would mean that the Food Banks would have to eliminate or cut essential delivery services that bring food into communities where it is needed. If we are forced to curtail the number of delivery sites, that too will cause hardship for agencies and some may not be able to continue to distribute this product. The implications of both of these changes will probably be reduced number of end users at food pantries and most certainly will reduce the efficiency of service to individuals and families.

The Food Banks rely on funding through many sources and in this volatile economy, we are far from certain we will receive adequate supplemental funding from the overstretched good willed community to support all our efforts, this is why adequate 'federal' administrative funding is so vital to our needs, and will help ensure not only that we can meet the increase in federal commodities but also ensure our other distribution programs continue. Any reduction in administrative funding jeopardizes and impairs our impact to serve, support and grow vital services.

We ask the members of the committee to maintain the level of administrative funding which is vital to sustaining the essential services for the hungry people we serve. We want to thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee. Please contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at 252-335-4035, ext. 110.

Sincerely,

L. Reasoner

Liz Reasoner
Chair, NCAFAFB

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Written Public Testimony for Fiscal Year 2011
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

Submitted by Vernon G. Pursel, President, Friends of Agricultural Research–Beltsville
March 18, 2010

Madam Chair, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present our statement regarding funding for the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and especially for the Agency's flagship research facility, the Henry A. Wallace **Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), in Maryland.** Our organization--**Friends of Agricultural Research - Beltsville**—promotes the Center's current and long-term agricultural research, outreach, and educational missions. **In this request, we support $13 million of increases proposed in the President's budget for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Also, we ask restoration of $111,000 of decreases proposed for the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC, and $2,918,000 of decreases proposed for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. These actions, if approved, would restore the increases for the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center to $13 million.**

Before turning to explanatory specifics, please allow us to note for the record that during this calendar year the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center will mark a great historical milestone, a milestone to celebrate the many great and small accomplishments that BARC research has contributed to the nation's agricultural bounty and to the overall march of scientific progress. **A century has passed since 1910, the year research at Beltsville began with the assembly of a dairy cattle herd for research purposes. The ensuing BARC story is by all rights a great national story—a story of world-class accomplishment. BARC Director Joseph Spence and his staff are planning worthy events to commemorate the centennial year.**

The Friends of Agricultural Research - Beltsville (FAR-B) is honored to be both a participant in the centennial planning process and a contributor to coming events. We would be pleased, Madam Chair, **to answer any questions, to collect any information or documents the Subcommittee might wish regarding the centennial.**

We now turn to the specifics of our testimony for FY-2011. Most Fiscal Year 2011 increases in the President's budget for BARC appeared (sometimes under slightly different headings) in our testimony for Fiscal Years 2009 or 2010. **We strongly support all the proposed increases.**

Animal Breeding and Protection, $1,500,000. The promise of understanding the genome of plants and animals is being fully exploited at Beltsville. In groundbreaking research conducted here, scientists have been able to quickly and accurately identify dairy bulls that will produce daughters that are the most efficient milk producers. Now a simple test at birth can predict at twice the former accuracy and at a cost of about $250 the potential of a bull to sire high producing cows. Traditionally, bull prediction methods have required farmers to maintain and study cows for several years, at a cost up to $50,000 per bull. The potential for developing and expanding this breakout technology is huge and at great savings to farmer and consumer alike.

Colony Collapse of Honey Bees, $500,000. The loss of honey bees has and will continue to have a major effect on American agriculture. Crops such as almonds are entirely dependent on the honey bee for pollination. Research conducted at Beltsville is regarded as the most significant and effective at addressing the issue of colony collapse disorder and the funds will make use of the recently reported DNA sequence of *nosema*, a pathogen that is associated with colony collapse disorder. BARC scientists determined the DNA sequence for *nosema*.

Crop Breeding and Protection, $1,250,00. A number of crops of great agronomic importance to the United States are at risk from emerging diseases that can devastate crop yield. Research to identify germplasm that is resistant to these emerging diseases is being conducted at BARC. The research combines BARC's unique germplasm resources with outstanding breeding research ability to develop improved crop varieties with resistance to emerging diseases.

Food Safety, $1,500,000. The Beltsville Area has established the largest single food safety unit in ARS. This research unit will focus on a number of issues, including safety of fruits and vegetables and food safety issues related to organic agriculture. The ability exists at BARC to raise crops and animals under farm conditions, and then to process, store, and package the resulting products. The ability to propose and test interventions that greatly reduce pathogen exposure in foods, and ultimately in people, is a unique feature of the food safety research program at BARC.

Global Climate Change, $800,000. BARC has unique growth chambers that can measure and observe plant growth at every stage or part from root to stem, and under every conceivable atmospheric condition. BARC is using these chambers to measure the effects of increasing atmospheric CO_2 and changes in environmental temperatures. Studies are underway not only on agronomically important crops, but also on invasive weeds. BARC research shows that environmental changes may enhance the rapid growth of invasive plants, thus threatening to exacerbate already costly problems for American agriculture.

Human Nutrition, $5,400,000. Obesity negatively impacts the health and productivity of the American public. Moreover, obesity comes with greatly increased risk of chronic diseases that dramatically add to the economic costs of health care. The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center (BHNRC) is researching barriers and facilitators that may discourage or encourage Americans from following recommended *Dietary Guidelines*; that is, why adults and children from major U.S. racial/ethnic groups may or may not follow dietary guidelines. A major research emphasis is to prevent obesity through a better understanding of why people make the food choices they do. This research also will help USDA design and implement more effective food assistance programs. Furthermore, this research will help to define the progress of efforts to prevent obesity in children because it takes advantage of the unique national food consumption survey "What We Eat in America", conducted by BHNRC and is the nation's nutrition monitoring effort.

Local Food Systems, $500,000. BARC scientists are working with farmers on Maryland's Eastern Shore to learn how to improve on-farm conservation practices that will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The research goals—targeting the entire range of Eastern Shore farming practices—include reducing fertilizer and pesticide usage. A central goal is to create agronomic and animal waste management practices that will reduce fertilizer usage and control pollution runoff. Biocontrol studies are searching out ways to minimize the need for pesticides. Scientists also are using advanced remote sensing and hydrological technologies to protect the health of the Chesapeake watershed. Because BARC is a working farm and has established collaborations with producers on the Eastern Shore, BARC is an ideal place to study the utilization of farm-generated waste products. Farm-generated waste products can be environmentally harmful, have little or no value to the farmer, and be costly to dispose of. Work at Beltsville has led to the effective development of technologies and products that take waste by-products and convert them to valuable new products. Examples include biofuels and plastics made without petroleum.

Plant, Animal, and Microbial Collections, $1,250,000. BARC maintains and expands the Federal government's unique collections of biological materials and organisms that are of utmost importance in identifying pests and parasites in the United States and are critical for preventing unwanted pests from entering the United States through imports or by international travelers, as well as demonstrating that our exports are safe. These unique, irreplaceable collections include the invaluable reference collections of insects, nematodes, parasites, and fungi, and the national Germplasm Resource Information Network. These world-class collections and information systems attract leading experts from around the world in efforts to globally control diseases and pests. The continued availability of research in this general area of systematics is essential for trade, for homeland security, and for the protection of American agriculture.

Reduce World Hunger, $300,000. This research will collect phenotypic data and use genome sequence derived markers to characterize germplasm for traits of importance in food animals. Of most significance, this work will utilize BARC's Animal Improvements Laboratory, which is a truly unique research operation that builds on 100 years of expertise at BARC.

Now we turn to proposed decreases, all listed as earmarks in the President's budget. We recommend restoration of these funds.

Medicinal and Bioactive Crops, $111,000. This funding is critical to continue research on the beneficial boioactive components in plants and herbs. These components have been shown at BARC to enhance human health.

Biomedical Materials in Plants, $1,700,000. Plants can be used as factories to manufacture vaccines and other pharmaceuticals for animals and humans. This research focuses on development of alternative crops to produce these biomedical products.

Bioremediation Research, $111,000. Munitions storage sites and bombing ranges in parts of the U.S. have left huge tracts of soils and lands contaminated by highly toxic residues from such explosives as TNT. Those soils and lands now are limited environmentally for commercial or agricultural purposes. These funds support ongoing research to determine if forage plants can remove TNT and its metabolites from contaminated sites. Beltsville is a world recognized leader in the field of bioremediation. This work is not done anywhere else in ARS.

Foundry Sand By-Products Utilization, $638,000. Waste sands from the metal casting industry currently are dumped in landfills. This project is working with industry on guidelines for beneficial uses of these sands.

Potato Diseases, $61,000. These funds are used for research activities on genetic improvement of potato and reducing diseases of potato. While a small amount of money, these funds are used to supplement ongoing efforts in this important area.

Poultry Diseases, $408,000. Coccidiosis, a parasitic poultry disease, costs the industry almost $1 billion per year. This research focuses on understanding the genetics of both the parasite and the host chicken to identify targets that will allow better disease prevention and control.

Madam Chair, that concludes our statement. We again thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony and for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Vernon G. Pursel

Vernon G. Pursel, Ph.D.
President

GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION
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Bad River Band
Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA
Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

FY 2011 Testimony

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies
by
James E. Zorn, Executive Administrator
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

Date: March 19, 2010

Agency Involved: USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

Summary of FY 2011 Testimony:

Restore $300,000 for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC): GLIFWC requests Congress restore $300,000 in funding eliminated under the Bush Administration and enable WTCAC to continue to fund projects that develop innovative conservation practices and models.

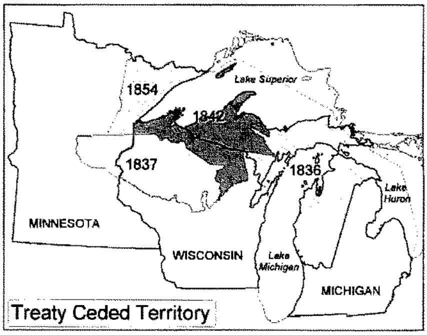
Maintain EQIP and WHIP program funding: GLIFWC supports Congress providing $1.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and $85 million for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill to protect the soil, water, plant and wildlife resources of the 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854 ceded territory.

Reaffirm support for local decision making: The success of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is due in large part to a program structure that stresses local decision making.

Disclosure of USDA Grants Contracted: GLIFWC is an intertribal organization which, under the direction of its member tribes, implements federal court orders governing tribal harvests of off-reservation natural resources and the formation of conservation partnerships to protect and enhance natural resources within the 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854 ceded territories (See map). In 2008, GLIFWC contracted $36,029 in NRCS funding to develop an Invasive Plant Risk Assessment/Prioritization Model.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is James E. Zorn. I am the Executive Administrator of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). Our eleven member tribal governments thank you for considering our testimony regarding programs funded by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. GLIFWC's testimony stresses three major objectives: 1) restore funding for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) at $300,000; 2) provide funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) at $1.45 billion and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) at $85 million and support intertribal and tribal efforts to participate in conservation partnerships; and 3) reaffirm support for local decision making in the operation of the EQIP and WHIP programs.

Background: GLIFWC is comprised of eleven (11) sovereign tribal governments located throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The Commission's purpose is to protect and enhance treaty-guaranteed rights to hunt, fish, and gather on inland territories ceded under the Chippewa treaties of 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854; to protect and enhance treaty guaranteed fishing on the Great Lakes; and to provide cooperative management and protection of these resources. The Commission participates in a wide range of cooperative management activities with local, state, federal, and foreign governments. Some of these activities arise from court orders, while others are developed in general government-to-government dealings between tribes and other governments.

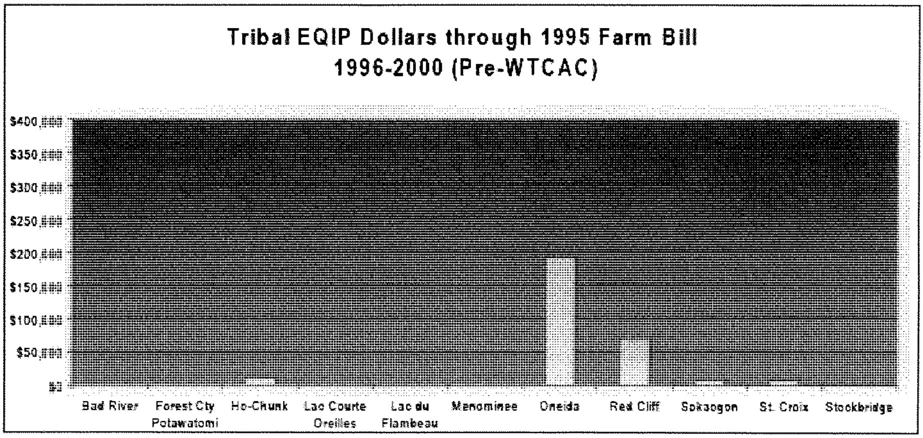


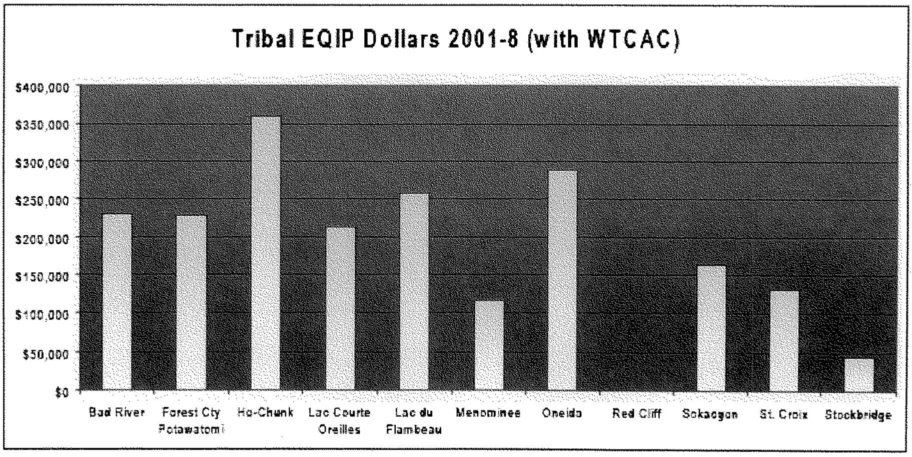
Treaty Ceded Territory

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) was established for the purposes of: 1) identifying tribal conservation issues, 2) advising the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service on more effective ways to deliver USDA programs, and 3) assisting the Indian Nations of Wisconsin in accessing USDA resources. This Tribal Conservation Advisory Council was organized in March 2001 and is the first such council formed in the country as authorized under the 1995 Farm Bill.

GLIFWC member tribes participating in the WTCAC include the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Band, and St. Croix Chippewa Tribe. Through WTCAC, member tribes have been able to: 1) advise USDA and the NRCS on better ways to meet tribal needs, 2) identify natural resource issues affecting tribal lands or ways of life, 3) communicate tribal conservation needs to legislators, 4) provide input on pending conservation legislation and policy, 5) build strong communities through healthy natural resources, and 6) protect pristine areas and restore degraded resources.

Since the inception of WTCAC, tribal participation and entry into the EQIP and WHIP programs has increased significantly. Through support from Wisconsin's State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth, the council has developed a relationship that allowed it to access the EQIP and WHIP programs more effectively. For example, pre-WTCAC (1996-2000) tribes used approximately $270,000 dollars from the 1995 Farm Bill EQIP appropriations. From 2001-2008 tribal participation in the EQIP program has increased to approximately $2 million. This same success has been documented in tribes' access to funding from the WHIP program, enabling them to protect and rehabilitate wildlife on reservation lands.





GLIFWC takes the following lessons from these circumstances:

- Funding for tribal projects in Wisconsin is directly attributable to active outreach toward and integration of tribes into the budgeting process of NRCS state offices.

- A tribal advisory council consisting of the tribal representatives and funded by NRCS can effectively link tribes with the NRCS and result in more funding directed toward tribal projects.

- Set asides for tribal projects from NRCS state office funding allocations is critical to ensure that tribes are able to access their fair share of those allocations.

- The lessons learned in Wisconsin are useful in supporting efforts to bring NRCS programs to Michigan tribes if those tribes are provided an adequate commitment of staff time and fiscal resources.

- A similar initiative is needed to expand services to GLIFWC member tribes in Minnesota.

Success of GLIFWC's 2008 WTCAC Special Project: Whereas numerous federal programs are active in preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species, GLIFWC has noticed a shortage of financial resources available to address terrestrial invasive species issues. Special projects like the one funded by the WTCAC thus provide particularly important resources to undertake projects and develop new tools that address threats posed by non-native plants.

There are several hundred non-native plants within the state of Wisconsin that vary in their impact to natural ecosystems and feasibility of control. Statewide priority lists for invasive plants often lose relevance when applied at the local level. With limited resources available to manage invasive plants, resource managers need objective tools to help identify which species pose the greatest threats to local resources and a process to prioritize and target invasive plant management efforts that maximizes their cost-effectiveness.

In 1999, GLIFWC staff recognized the need to develop a database for invasive plants that could be used to help guide future management efforts. Specifically, the database could be used to prioritize species for management, target educational outreach, and identify threats to treaty resources. GLIFWC staff compiled information on ecological impacts and control options for over 300 non-native plants from peer-reviewed literature and other sources. In addition, distribution data has been compiled for invasive plants in several counties. The next step in this process was to model the suitable habitats for the various invasive species and link these databases together to facilitate prioritization of management effort based upon each plant's ecological impact, current distribution, and potential distribution in relation to the values we wish to conserve on the landscape.

Over the last year and a half, WTCAC funding enabled GLIFWC to complete the invasive plant risk assessment/prioritization model. The model enhances the ability of tribes and other land managers to:

- objectively condense large amounts of data into tangible maps delineating cost-effective, priority invasive plant management objectives;
- collaborate with partners, including NRCS, in strategic planning and protection of critical habitats in the Lake Superior basin;
- establish a new tool for the assessment, management, and conservation of natural resources in relationship to EQIP and WHIP;
- develop, adapt, and transfer an effective scientific based technology; and
- provide new information to aid in sound decision making in the wise use and management of natural resources.

Without the $36,029 in funding from the WTCAC's Special Projects Program, GLIFWC's invasive plant risk assessment/prioritization model could not have been developed.

A partnership integrating WTCAC, the State NRCS offices, and financial resources from USDA's EQIP and WHIP programs enables Tribal Nations to directly address conservation needs that are prioritized within their respective communities. We ask Congress to support restoring funding for WTCAC at $300,000 in FY 2011 and reaffirm support for local decision making processes.

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
Testimony on the FY 2011 Budget submitted by
Mimi Brody, Director of Federal Affairs, The Humane Society of the United States
March 19, 2010

As the largest animal protection organization in the country, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony to your Subcommittee on FY 2011 items of great importance to The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its 11 million supporters nationwide. In this testimony, we request the following amounts for the following USDA accounts:

- FSIS/Humane Methods of Slaughter Act Enforcement – $2 million of HAT funds to hire/train mobile review team to conduct unscheduled audits and undercover surveillance to assess compliance with HMSA, and language calling for establishment of ombudsman to help ensure that inspectors can carry out their responsibilities – both food safety and humane slaughter – without undue interference
- FSIS/Horse Slaughter – language mirroring FY 2010 provision
- APHIS/Horse Protection Act Enforcement – $900,000
- APHIS/Animal Welfare Act Enforcement – $22,333,000
- APHIS/Investigative and Enforcement Services – $14,213,000
- OIG/including Animal Fighting Enforcement – $90,000,000
- NIFA (formerly CSREES)/Veterinary Student Loan Forgiveness – $5,000,000
- APHIS/Emergency Management Systems/Disaster Planning for Animals – $1,017,000
- APHIS/Wildlife Services – funding limitation on use of two particularly toxic poisons
- NAL/Animal Welfare Information Center -- $1,978,400

We thank you for your outstanding support during recent years for improved enforcement of key animal welfare laws by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and we urge you to sustain this effort in FY 2011. Your leadership is making a difference in helping to protect the welfare of millions of animals across the country. As you know, better enforcement will also benefit people by decreasing: 1) food safety risks to consumers from sick animals who can transmit illness, and injuries to slaughterhouse workers from suffering animals; 2) orchestrated dogfights and cockfights that often involve illegal gambling, drug trafficking, and human violence, and can contribute to the spread of costly illnesses such as bird flu; 3) the sale of unhealthy pets by commercial breeders, commonly referred to as "puppy mills"; 4) laboratory conditions that may impair the scientific integrity of animal based research; 5) risks of disease transmission from, and dangerous encounters with, wild animals in or during public exhibition; and 6) injuries and deaths of pets on commercial airline flights due to mishandling and exposure to adverse environmental conditions. In order to continue the important work made possible by the Committee's prior support, we request the following for FY 2011:

Food Safety and Inspection Service / Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (HMSA) Enforcement

We request that $2,000,000 of the Humane Animal Tracking funding be directed to hire a mobile review team to focus on strengthening HMSA enforcement, and that language be

included calling for the establishment of an ombudsman. We greatly appreciated the committee's inclusion of $2 million in FY 2009 to address severe shortfalls in USDA oversight of humane handling rules for animals at slaughter facilities, oversight that is important not only for animal welfare but also for food safety. While the agency has taken some steps on this front, serious problems remain. For example, video taken by a non-profit organization during a 2009 undercover investigation revealed atrocities including repeated electric shocks, kicking, cutting off a hoof and partial decapitation of conscious baby calves. The footage also revealed a USDA inspector showing callous disregard for blatant cruelty, as he watched a calf being skinned alive and commented that another inspector would shut the plant down, but he allowed the abuse to continue. While that inspector has since been fired, to address remaining weaknesses in the inspection regime, we request that $2 million be allocated out of the $3 million in Humane Animal Tracking (HAT) funding for the purpose of hiring and training a mobile review team to conduct unscheduled audits and undercover surveillance focused on assessing compliance with humane handling rules of live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas.

We also urge the committee to include language calling on the USDA to establish an ombudsman to provide inspectors with an avenue to take their concerns and grievances, and help ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities – both food safety and humane slaughter – without undue interference. A whistleblower, a current FSIS veterinarian who has served the agency for 18 years, testified at a recent House Oversight subcommittee hearing that a core problem with HMSA enforcement involves high-level supervisors putting pressure on inspectors below them to not rigorously enforce humane standards – discouraging them from reporting violations, rewriting and watering down their reports, second-guessing their first-hand observations, insisting that actions comport with humane standards even when they run contrary to the guidelines of leading animal science expert Dr. Temple Grandin (whose expertise is well-respected by industry), and reprimanding and punishing them for taking enforcement actions. Even some District Veterinary Medical Specialists – the very positions funded by Congress to focus on ensuring compliance with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act – have engaged in this undermining of inspectors. For the humane slaughter law to be properly enforced, personnel at all levels – and certainly those in the supervisory ranks – must take this mission seriously. Ideally, this ombudsman would be independent from FSIS, reporting directly to the Under Secretary for Food Safety, or alternatively could perhaps be in the Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement & Review (OPEER) that helps ensure the effectiveness of FSIS.

Horse Slaughter

We request inclusion of the same language barring USDA from the expenditure of funds for horse slaughter inspection as the Committee included in the FY 2010 omnibus. This provision is vital to prevent renewed horse slaughter activity in this country.

APHIS / Horse Protection Act (HPA) Enforcement

We request that you support the President's request of $900,000 for strengthened enforcement of the Horse Protection Act. Congress enacted the HPA in 1970 to make illegal the abusive practice of "soring," in which unscrupulous trainers use a variety of methods to inflict pain on sensitive areas of Tennessee Walking Horses' hooves and legs to exaggerate their high-stepping gait and gain unfair competitive advantage at horse shows. For example, caustic chemicals – such as mustard oil, diesel fuel, and kerosene – are painted on the lower front legs of a horse, then the legs are wrapped for days in plastic wrap and tight bandages to "cook" the chemicals deep into the horse's flesh, and then heavy chains are attached to slide up and down the horse's sore legs. Additional tactics include inserting foreign objects such as metal screws or acrylic between a heavy stacked shoe and the horse's hoof; pressure shoeing – cutting a horse's hoof down to the sensitive live tissue to cause extreme pain every time the horse bears weight on the hoof; and applying painful chemicals such as salicylic acid to slough off scarred tissue, in an attempt to disguise the sored areas. Though soring has been illegal for 40 years, this cruel practice continues unabated by the well-intentioned but seriously understaffed APHIS inspection program. Several horse show industry groups, animal protection groups, and the key organization of equine veterinarians have called for funding increases to enable the USDA to do a better job enforcing this law. To meet the goal of the HPA, Animal Care inspectors must be present at more shows. Exhibitors who sore their horses go to great lengths to avoid detection, even fleeing a show when USDA inspectors arrive. But with current funding, Animal Care is able to attend only about 6% of the more than 500 Tennessee Walking Horse shows held annually. An appropriation at the requested level will help provide for additional inspectors, training, security (to address threats of violence against inspectors), and advanced detection equipment (thermography and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry machines).

APHIS / Animal Welfare Act (AWA) Enforcement

We request that you support the President's request of $22,333,000 for AWA enforcement under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). We commend the Committee for responding in recent years to the urgent need for increased funding for the Animal Care division to improve its inspections of more than 12,000 sites, including commercial breeding facilities, laboratories, zoos, circuses, and airlines, to ensure compliance with AWA standards. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress established a new responsibility for this division – to enforce a ban on imports from foreign puppy mills where puppies are mass produced under inhumane conditions and forced to endure harsh long-distance transport. Animal Care currently has 115 inspectors (with 2 vacancies to be filled), compared to 64 inspectors at the end of the 1990s. An appropriation at the requested level would maintain FY10 funding with a modest increase to cover pay costs and help ensure that the agency can provide adequate oversight of the increasing number of licensed/registered facilities.

APHIS / Investigative and Enforcement Services

We request that you support the President's request of $14,213,000 for APHIS Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES). We appreciate the Committee's consistent support for this division, which handles many important responsibilities, including the investigation of alleged violations of federal animal welfare laws and the initiation of appropriate enforcement actions. The volume of animal welfare cases is rising significantly as new facilities become licensed and registered. An appropriation at the requested level would maintain FY09 funding with a modest increase to cover pay costs.

Office of Inspector General / Animal Fighting Enforcement

We request that you support the President's request of $90,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to maintain staff, improve effectiveness, and allow investigations in various areas, including enforcement of animal fighting laws. We appreciate the Committee's inclusion of funding and language in recent years for USDA's OIG to focus on animal fighting cases. Congress first prohibited most interstate and foreign commerce of animals for fighting in 1976, tightened loopholes in the law in 2002, established felony penalties in 2007, and further strengthened the law as part of the 2008 Farm Bill. We are pleased that USDA is taking seriously its responsibility to enforce this law, working with state and local agencies to complement their efforts and address these barbaric practices, in which animals are drugged to heighten their aggression and forced to keep fighting even after they've suffered grievous injuries. Dogs bred and trained to fight endanger public safety, and some dogfighters steal pets to use as bait for training their dogs. Cockfighting was linked to an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in 2002-2003 that cost taxpayers more than $200 million to contain. It's also been linked to the death of a number of people in Asia reportedly exposed through cockfighting activity to bird flu. Given the potential for further costly disease transmission, as well as the animal cruelty involved, we believe it is a sound investment for the federal government to increase its efforts to combat illegal animal fighting activity. We also support the OIG's auditing and investigative work to improve compliance with the humane slaughter law and downed animal rules and the Horse Protection Act.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture / Veterinary Student Loan Forgiveness

We request that you support the President's request of $5,000,000 to continue the implementation of the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (P.L. 108-161). This program received $2,950,000 in FY 2009, $4,800,000 in FY 2010, and was projected to need $5,000,000 in its third year under the CBO score accompanying authorization. We appreciate that Congress is working to address the critical shortage of veterinarians practicing in rural and inner-city areas, as well as in government positions at FSIS and APHIS. A 2009 Government Accountability Office report enumerating the challenges facing veterinary medicine identified that an inadequate number of veterinarians to meet national needs is among the foremost challenges. A 2006 study demonstrated the acute and worsening shortage of veterinarians working in rural farm animal practice, while domestic pets in both rural and urban areas are often left without necessary medical care. Having adequate veterinary care is a core animal welfare concern. To ensure adequate oversight of humane handling and food safety rules, FSIS must be able to fill vacancies in inspector positions. Veterinarians also support our nation's defense against bioterrorism (the Centers for Disease Control estimate that 75% of potential bioterrorism agents are zoonotic - transmitted from animals to human). They are also on the front lines addressing public health problems such as those associated with pet overpopulation, parasites, rabies, chronic wasting disease, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy ("mad cow" disease). Veterinary school graduates face a crushing debt burden of $130,000 on average, with an average starting salary of $65,000. For those who choose employment in underserved rural or inner-city areas or public health practice, the National Veterinary Medical Service Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to forgive student debt. It also authorizes financial assistance for those who provide services during federal emergency situations such as disease outbreaks.

APHIS / Emergency Management Systems / Disaster Planning for Animals

We request that you support the President's request of $1,017,000 for Animal Care under APHIS' Emergency Management Systems line item. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that many people refuse to evacuate if they are forced to leave their pets behind. The Animal Care division has been asked to develop infrastructure to help prepare for and respond to animal issues in a disaster and incorporate lessons learned from previous disasters. These funds are used for staff time and resources to support state and local governments' and humane organizations' efforts to plan for protection of people with animals, and to enable the agency to participate, in partnership with FEMA, in the National Response Plan without jeopardizing other Animal Care programs.

APHIS / Wildlife Services (WS)

We also hope the committee will consider a funding limitation on two particularly cruel, indiscriminant wildlife control methods used by the WS division to kill more than 13,000 animals every year: the toxicants sodium cyanide (delivered via small explosive devices known as M-44s) and sodium fluoroacetate (commonly known as Compound 1080). Not only are these two substances undeniably cruel to animals, they also pose an unnecessary threat to human health and public safety. The FBI has declared that both Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide are "highly toxic pesticides judged most likely to be used by terrorists or for malicious intent." The FBI and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service have listed Compound 1080 as a substance that may be sought for use as a possible chemical warfare agent in public water supplies. As early as 1999, the U.S. Air Force identified Compound 1080 as a likely biological agent. A funding limitation on the use of these particular methods would not only reduce the number of animals killed every year and the amount of suffering animals endure as a result of the continued use of these inhumane methods by WS, it would help protect homeland security and move WS toward non-lethal wildlife control methods that are safer, more effective, less expensive, and more humane. With the most indefensible methods eliminated, there will be more money for other, more beneficial WS programs.

Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC)

We request $1,978,400 for AWIC. These funds will enable AWIC to improve its services as a clearinghouse, training center, and educational resource to help institutions using animals in research, testing and teaching comply with the requirements of the AWA, including consideration of alternatives to minimize or eliminate animal use in specific research protocols.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to share our views and priorities for the Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act of Fiscal Year 2011. We are grateful for the Committee's past support, and hope you will be able to accommodate these modest requests to address some very pressing problems affecting millions of animals in the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

Testimony submitted by Keith Dane, Director of Equine Protection, The Humane Society of the United States, on behalf of the undersigned horse industry and animal welfare organizations, regarding FY 2011 funding for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act

March 19, 2010

On behalf of the undersigned animal welfare and horse industry organizations, with combined supporters exceeding 12 million, we submit the following testimony seeking an increase in funding for the USDA/APHIS Horse Protection Program to $900,000, as requested in the President's budget for FY 2011. This funding is urgently needed to begin to fulfill the intent of the Horse Protection Act – to eliminate the cruel practice of soring – by allowing the USDA to strengthen its enforcement capabilities for this law.

In 1970, Congress passed the Horse Protection Act to end soring, the intentional infliction of pain to the hooves and legs of a horse to produce an exaggerated gait, practiced primarily in the Tennessee Walking Horse show industry.

For example, caustic chemicals – such as mustard oil, diesel fuel, and kerosene – are painted on the lower front legs of a horse, then the legs are wrapped for days in plastic wrap and bandages to "cook" the chemicals deep into the horse's flesh. This makes the horse's legs extremely painful and sensitive, and when ridden, the horse is fitted with chains that slide up and down the horse's sore legs, forcing him to produce an exaggerated, high-stepping gait in the show ring. Additional tactics include inserting foreign objects such as metal screws or hard acrylic between a heavy stacked shoe and the horse's hoof; pressure shoeing – cutting a horse's hoof down to the sensitive live tissue to cause extreme pain every time the horse bears weight on the hoof; and applying painful chemicals such as salicylic acid to slough off scarred tissue, in an attempt to remove evidence of soring.

The Horse Protection Act authorizes the USDA to inspect Tennessee Walking Horses and Racking Horses – in transport to and at shows, exhibits, auctions and sales – for signs of soring, and to pursue penalties against violators. Unfortunately, since its inception, enforcement of the Act has been plagued by underfunding. As a result, the USDA has never been able to adequately enforce the Act, allowing this extreme and deliberate cruelty to persist on a widespread basis.

The most effective way to eliminate soring and meet the goals of the Act is for USDA officials to be present at more shows. However, limited funds allow USDA attendance at only about 6% of Tennessee Walking Horse shows. So the agency set up an industry-run system of certified Horse Industry Organization (HIO) inspection programs, which are charged with inspecting horses for signs of soring at the majority of shows. These groups license examiners known as Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs) to conduct inspections. To perform this function, they often hire industry insiders who have an obvious stake in preserving the status quo. Statistics clearly show that when USDA inspectors are in attendance to oversee shows, the numbers of noted violations are many times higher than at shows where industry inspectors alone are conducting the inspections. By all measures, the overall DQP program has been a failure – the only remedy is to abolish it or greatly reduce dependence on this conflicted industry-run program of self-regulation and give USDA the resources it needs to adequately enforce the Act.

USDA appears to have recently attempted to step up its enforcement efforts, as evidenced in 2009 by a more than twofold increase over the previous year in the number of violations cited at the industry's largest show (the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration). However, the top three prize winning horses at that show were all found after their wins to have been in violation of the HPA, and their owners and trainers were allowed to keep the titles and prizes awarded. Horses identified as sored at shows also continue to be shown in subsequent events, and their owners continue to win lucrative prizes. USDA needs enhanced resources to carry out its responsibilities as Congress, and the public, expects.

Lack of a consistent presence by USDA officials at Tennessee Walking Horse events has fostered a cavalier attitude among industry insiders, who have not stopped their abuse, but have only become more clandestine in their soring methods. The continued use of soring to gain an advantage in the show ring has tainted the Tennessee Walking Horse industry as a whole, and creates an unfair advantage for those who are willing to break the law in pursuit of victory. Besides the indefensible suffering of the animals themselves, the continued acceptance of sored horses in the show ring prevents those with sound horses from competing fairly for prizes, breeding fees and other financial incentives, while those horse owners whose horses are sored may unwittingly suffer property damage and be duped into believing that their now abused, damaged horses are naturally superior.

Currently, when USDA inspectors arrive at shows, many exhibitors load up and leave to avoid being caught with sored horses. While USDA could stop these trailers on the way out, agency officials have stated that inspectors are wary of going outside of their designated inspection area, for fear of harassment and physical violence from exhibitors. Recently, armed security has been utilized to allow such inspections, at additional expense to this program. The fact that exhibitors feel they can intimidate government officials without penalty is a testament to the inherent shortcomings of the current system.

In years past, inspections were limited to physical observation and palpation by the inspector. New technologies, such as thermography and "sniffer" devices (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry machines), have been developed, which can help inspectors identify soring more effectively and objectively. However, USDA has been unable to purchase and put enough of this equipment in use in the field, allowing for industry insiders to continually evade detection. With increased funding, the USDA could purchase this equipment and train more inspectors to use it properly, greatly increasing its ability to enforce the HPA.

The egregious cruelty of soring is not only a concern for animal protection and horse industry organizations, but also for veterinarians. In 2008, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) issued a white paper condemning soring, calling it "one of the most significant welfare issues faced by the equine industry." It called for the abolition of the DQP Program, saying "the acknowledged conflicts of interest which involve many of them cannot be reasonably resolved, and these individuals should be excluded from the regulatory process." The AAEP further stated, "The failure of the HPA to eliminate the practice of soring can be traced to the woefully inadequate annual budget of $500,000 allocated to the USDA to enforce these rules and regulations."

It is unacceptable that nearly 40 years after passage of the Horse Protection Act, the USDA still lacks the resources needed to end this extreme form of abuse. It is time for Congress to give our public servants charged with enforcing this Act the support and resources they want and need to fulfill their duty to protect these horses as effectively and safely as possible.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views about this serious problem, and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Keith Dane, Director of Equine Protection
The Humane Society of the United States

Lori Northrup, President
Friends of Sound Horses, Inc.

Chris Heyde, Deputy Director, Government and Legal Affairs
Animal Welfare Institute

Betsy Dribben, Vice President for Government Relations
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Robin Lohnes, Executive Director
American Horse Protection Association

Shelley Sawhook, President
American Horse Defense Fund

Louise Semancik, President
Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland

Karen Brown, Director of Programs
United Animal Nations

Michael Downer, President
National Plantation Walking Horse Association

Lyn Wagner, President
Plantation Walking Horse Association of California

Joyce Guillemot, President
United Pleasure Walking Horse Association

Elissa Dauberman
Pennsylvania Pleasure Walking Horse Association

Gina Vehige
Gaitway Walking Horse Association

Gale Monahan, President
Mid Atlantic Tennessee Walking Horse Association

Bonnie Yeager, President
International Pleasure Walking Horse Registry

Sharon Halpin
SHO – Sound Horse Outreach

Penny Austin, President
One Horse At a Time, Inc. Horse Rescue

Fran Cole, President
Northern California Walking Horse Association

Bob Kuykendall
Tennessee Walking Horse Association of Oklahoma

Cris Van Horn, President
Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Association

Doug Barlow, HIO Coordinator
United Mountain Horses

Daniele Hayes, President
Northwest Gaited Horse Club

Walter Farnholtz, President
New York State Plantation Walking Horse Club

Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
555 Park Street
Suite 420
St. Paul MN 55103
hungersolutions.org
651-789-9841

Hunger Solutions Minnesota (HSM) is a comprehensive hunger relief organization that works to end hunger in Minnesota.

The State of Minnesota through the Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity, contracts with Hunger Solutions Minnesota (HSM) to coordinate the efficient statewide distribution of TEFAP commodities. HSM works with the members of Feeding America in Minnesota (Channel One Food Bank in Rochester, MN, Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo, ND, North Country Food Bank in Crookston, MN, Second Harvest Heartland in Maplewood, MN, Second Harvest North Central Food Bank in Grand Rapids MN, and Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank in Duluth, MN), the sole distributors of TEFAP federal commodities within the State of Minnesota in the regions they serve.

We also take action to assure food security for all Minnesotans by supporting agencies that provide food to those in need, advancing sound public policy, and guiding grassroots advocacy. HSM advocates for the maximum use of all federal public nutrition dollars available and works to improve low income Minnesotans' access to all nutrition programs. The HSM Minnesota Food HelpLine (1-888-711-1151) helps enroll low-income Minnesotans in the Food Support (Food Stamps) program and helps callers find emergency food assistance in their area.

We are all painfully aware that we are living in financially trying times. This past year was exceptionally devastating for Minnesota. Middle class families, retirees, businesses, the media, non profits and especially our low-income residents have been adversely affected by the recession.

Not surprisingly, according to a new Gallup survey, nearly 14% of us faced a hunger hardship in 2009. That means we had to skip meals, did not have any cash to spend at the grocery store or simply had no access to food at some point last year.

The scope of the hunger problem in Minnesota is hard to imagine. A simple percentage does not paint a complete picture. I'll illustrate with some more numbers.

- An estimated one in ten or, 555,000 of us relied upon our neighborhood food shelf for groceries last year. There were a total of 2.9 million visits to a food shelf.
- That represents a 23% increase over 2008.
- Child visits increased 38% and senior visits increased 9.3%.
- As of November, there were 406,062 Minnesotans enrolled in Food Support.
- That represents a 32% increase over 2008.

The Minnesota emergency food safety net is meeting the record-setting need because of the substantial Federal Government help via the USDA. Minnesota receives 25 semi-truck loads of the highest-quality TEFAP food every month. Our 300 food shelves are able to meet the increased demand because of TEFAP, the back-bone of the emergency food response.

HSM is very concerned that the planned reduction in available funds for TEFAP expenses. Going from $74.5 to $50 million will definitely impact the amount of food available for struggling families and seniors through the Minnesota Food Shelves. Much of our food is now distributed at no cost to the agencies. This cut would lower the amount of administrative dollars available which would require the distributing agencies to come up with more dollars to support distribution costs. The ability to procure all TEFAP products available would be minimized.

TEFAP has allowed Minnesota food shelves to distribute more food, for more people with no impact on their budget. Food shelves are able to procure this much needed product from the food banking system without paying for the shared maintenance or transportation fees. Most of our food shelves are small non profit organizations run by volunteers with thrifty budgets. They have very limited capacity for raising more funds to cover this potential loss of funding.

One half to two thirds of the food distributed by Minnesota food shelves is from TEFAP. We have come to rely upon the 300% increase in volume that The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the 2008 Farm Bill have provided.

We urge you to keep hungry Americans and small non profits in mind as you conduct your committee work, listen to testimony and make your budget decisions. Hunger Solutions Minnesota advocates for policy change and program enhancement that will nourish families' food budgets, reach more school children and give seniors the dignity they deserve.

Infectious Diseases Society of America's (IDSA) Testimony Concerning Fiscal Year 2011 Funding at the Food and Drug Administration

Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

March 19, 2010

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) appreciates this opportunity to speak in support of federal efforts to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases in the United States and abroad as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 funding cycle. IDSA supports an **overall increase of $495 million** for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for FY2011. Within this overall increase, we support an **additional $20 million for FDA's antimicrobial resistance and antibacterial drug review programs**, which will allow FDA to more aggressively address staffing problems within the agency's division with oversight over antibacterial human drug reviews to enable that division to quicken its pace in developing critical guidance for industry on antibacterial drug clinical trial designs; fund Critical Path initiatives specific to antibacterial drug development; update antibacterial drug and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) device susceptibility breakpoints for inclusion in product labeling; and review the safety of antibacterial drug use in food animals. We also support **an increase of $13.25 million for FDA's new regulatory science initiative** to address scientific issues related to antibacterial drug development and an **increase of $3 million for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).**

IDSA represents more than 9,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists devoted to patient care, prevention, public health, education and research. Our members care for patients of all ages with serious infections, including meningitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), resistant infections caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and *Salmonella*, food poisoning, and HIV/AIDS, emerging infections like the 2009 H1N1 virus and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and cancer and transplant patients who have life-threatening infections caused by unusual microorganisms.

OVERALL FDA FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

The increases in FDA's appropriations over the past few years have been critical to strengthening the agency. Nonetheless, there remains an extraordinarily large gap between FDA's responsibilities and its resources. Every year, the agency's job becomes more complex scientifically and more difficult to perform. Moreover, new laws affecting FDA recently have been enacted, further straining the FDA's ability to meet the expectations of the Congress and the American people. It is also important to note that FDA's appropriation is quite small, especially when matched against its jurisdiction over one-quarter of consumer spending, 80% of the food supply and all of the drugs, biologics, medical devices, animal drugs, cosmetics and dietary supplements used anywhere in the United States. FDA must also deal with the food and medical products that are sourced from overseas. IDSA is recommending a $495 million increase for FDA in FY2011. This is the amount we believe is needed to enable FDA to make further progress in carrying out its existing responsibilities.

SPECIFIC FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Within this increased funding, IDSA supports a strengthening of efforts which will support FDA's antimicrobial resistance programs and antibacterial drug review efforts. Specifically, we support at least a $36.25 million increase for FDA's activities in these areas in FY2011, including an increase in FDA funding for the new regulatory science initiative and an increase for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).

THE ANTIBIOTIC PIPELINE: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Since antibiotics were first discovered and used in the 1940s to save American soldiers during World War II, they have saved millions of lives and eased patients' suffering. In fact, antibiotics often have been referred to as "miracle drugs," since patients only need to take them for a few days to completely resolve most infections.

However, antibiotics also are unique among all medicines in two very unfortunate ways. First, over time, these drugs lose their ability to treat the diseases for which they were approved—due to antibiotic resistance. And, second, the phenomenon of antibiotic resistance has required that newly approved antibiotics be used sparingly so that we can prolong their effectiveness against life-threatening infections. These two issues, resistance and the resulting need for protective antibiotic stewardship measures, have created very real clinical challenges in physicians' ability to treat infectious diseases. Unfortunately, they also have resulted in a market failure that has caused most pharmaceutical companies to withdraw from antibacterial research and development (R&D). The sad result—the antibacterial pipeline is drying up, placing Americans and other people around the world at serious risk.

A January 2009 IDSA report published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)* analyzes antibacterials in development and shows the pipeline is bare, particularly for infections caused by a group of bacteria known as the ESKAPE Pathogens (*Enterococcus faecium, Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Enterobacter* species), so-called because they effectively escape the effects of approved antibacterial drugs. Of significance, these ESKAPE pathogens cause the majority of U.S. health care-associated infections. A report released by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in September 2009 confirms IDSA's assessment finding only 15 antibacterial drugs in development with the potential to offer a benefit over existing antibacterial drugs. Only five of these antibacterials had progressed to clinical trials to confirm clinical efficacy (Phase III or later).

The lack of new antibacterial drugs in development is deeply troubling to health experts and has the potential to change the practice of medicine as we know it. A number of advanced interventions that we currently take for granted, e.g. surgery, cancer treatment, transplantation and care of premature babies, may be impossible to perform if we get to the point where effective antibacterial drugs are no longer available. Our ability to care for patients with serious and life-threatening infections already has been significantly diminished—morbidity and mortality are on the rise.

In addition to market failure due to antibacterial resistance, pharmaceutical companies often report that uncertainty caused by a lack of clear FDA guidance on appropriate clinical trial designs is a significant impediment to antibacterial R & D efforts. IDSA requests that FDA funding be sufficiently increased to allow the agency to quickly provide regulatory certainty and to explore other incentives needed to motivate major drug companies to become engaged once again in antibacterial R & D.

FDA has made some progress over the past several years in publishing new clinical trial guidelines. However, clear clinical trial design guidance is still urgently needed, including guidances for community-acquired bacterial pneumonia, hospital-acquired bacterial pneumonia, ventilator-associated bacterial pneumonia, complicated skin and skin structure infections and other serious infections. FDA must have adequate funding to hire additional staff to finalize these guidances quickly. Otherwise, more companies will leave this area of drug development.

Moreover, IDSA strongly urges FDA to commission a study through the Tufts Center (or some other similar entity) seeking a report on strengths and weaknesses in the antibacterial and related diagnostics R&D pipelines with a particular emphasis on products needed to treat, detect, and prevent serious and life-threatening infections caused by ESKAPE pathogens. The study also should provide recommendations as to what combination of incentives, considering each phase of product development, will work to spur greater R&D of such products among the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and diagnostics industries as well as within academic settings.

SUPPORT FOR REGULATORY SCIENCE

IDSA is encouraged by the recent announcement of the initiative between FDA and the National Institutes of Health designed to accelerate the process from scientific breakthrough to the availability of new, innovative medical therapies for patients. The initiative involves two interrelated scientific disciplines: translational science, the shaping of basic scientific discoveries into treatments; and regulatory science, the development and use of new tools, standards and approaches to more efficiently develop products and to more effectively evaluate product safety, efficacy and quality.

In order to improve the regulatory science, the two agencies will jointly make $6.75 million dollars available over three years for work in this area. The research supported through this initiative will add to the scientific knowledge base by providing new methods, models or technologies to inform the scientific and regulatory community about better approaches to evaluating safety and efficacy in medical product development. IDSA is concerned, however, that this amount of funding will be insufficient to lead to the types of breakthroughs needed to bring new antibacterial drug products to the market in a more timely fashion. We support an increase of $13.25 million in this funding, to a total of $20 million, to support science around antibacterial drug development.

ANTIBACTERIAL BREAKPOINTS

Physicians need accurate information on susceptibility interpretative criteria ("breakpoints") to use antibacterial drugs wisely. Breakpoints are the science behind standard laboratory policy and are the basis upon which antibacterial drug selection determinations are made. The real-life impact of relying upon inaccurate (including out-of-date) breakpoints are thousands of wrong treatment decisions being made every day in this country. Without accurate breakpoint information, patients' safety and lives are at risk. That is why updating antibacterial drug product labeling and AST instruments/systems in a timely manner are so critically important. Again, FDA must have the funding necessary to allow for additional staff to be able to update these breakpoints on a timely and consistent basis.

ANTIBACTERIAL USE AND RESISTANCE ON U.S. FARMS

Another area of serious concern is the inappropriate use of antibacterial drugs in food animal production. An additional $5 million should be allocated to allow FDA to complete, update and publish reviews on the safety of antimicrobials of importance to human medicine which currently are approved for non-therapeutic purposes in food-producing animals for their role in the selection and dissemination of antibacterial-resistant food-borne pathogens. Since 2003, FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has required that the pre-approval safety review for all new antibacterial veterinary drugs include an evaluation of the likelihood that the proposed drug use in animals will lead to resistant infections in humans. Because almost all antibacterial drugs being used for growth promotion and other non-therapeutic purposes in livestock production were approved by the FDA before 2003, most have either not undergone reviews with respect to antibacterial resistance or have undergone reviews that are inconsistent with current standards. In order to ensure that these drugs meet current safety standards, it is important to do post-market safety reviews of those classes of antibacterial drugs important to human medicine that are also being used for routine non-therapeutic purposes in animal agriculture. These would include penicillins, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides. By providing an additional $5 million, the Subcommittee can ensure that FDA completes and publishes these critical reviews.

Finally, an additional $3 million should be provided to the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS). Jointly operated by FDA, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NARMS is a national public health surveillance system that tracks changes in the susceptibility of certain enteric bacteria to antimicrobial agents of human and veterinary medical importance. Systematic collection and analyses of data is essential to address the growing problem of antibacterial resistant infections.

NARMS has been level-funded at about $7 million for the last several years; however, at that level it has been unable to keep up with life-threatening pathogens, such as MRSA, E. coli and Salmonella. Additional funding will enable increased surveillance, to include additional bacterial species and numbers and/or types of samples, and to allow researchers to utilize more sensitive methods. The additional funding will also allow NARMS to initiate farm-level surveillance of antibacterial-resistant bacteria.

Today's investment in infectious diseases research, surveillance, prevention, and treatments will pay significant dividends in the future by dramatically reducing health care costs and improving the quality of life of millions of Americans. In addition, U.S. leadership in infectious diseases research and prevention will translate into worldwide health benefits. We urge the Subcommittee to continue to demonstrate leadership and foresight in this area by appropriating the much-needed resources outlined above in recognition of the lives and dollars that ultimately will be saved.

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

Testimony submitted by Mark Matson, Designated Qualified Persons Coordinator, International Walking Horse Association (IWHA), regarding FY 2011 funding for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act

March 19, 2010

IWHA submits the following testimony seeking an increase in funding for the USDA/APHIS Horse Protection Program to $900,000, as requested in the President's budget for FY 2011. This funding is urgently needed to by APHIS in order to fulfill the intent of the Horse Protection Act, which is to abolish the cruel practice of soring horses for show ring competition – by increasing the USDA's oversight and enforcement of the Horse Protection Act (HPA).

In 1970, Congress passed the HPA with the clear intent to end soring, the intentional infliction of pain to the limbs horses to produce an exaggerated gait, practiced primarily in the Tennessee Walking Horse show industry. The practice creates an unfair advantage in the show ring for those who engage in it, and has significant negative impacts to both the breed itself and to commerce in and related to the breed.

Soring often involves the use of various chemicals which are painted on the lower front legs of a horse, then the legs are wrapped for days in plastic wrap and bandages to "cook" the chemicals deep into the horse's flesh, but it may also involve various means of physical abuse. The desired result is that horse's legs and or feet become extremely painful and sensitive. Then when the horse is ridden, by attempting to relieve its front feet and legs of pain, it most often performs an exaggerated gait which is highly rewarded in the show ring. Some of the physical methods mentioned include inserting foreign objects such as metal screws or hard acrylic between the shoes and the horse's hoof, and/or cutting a horse's hoof down to the sensitive live tissue to cause extreme pain every time the horse bears weight on the hoof; a practice known as pressure shoeing. Other cruel secondary practices involve such practices as applying painful chemicals such as salicylic acid to slough off scarred tissue, in an attempt to remove evidence of soring.

The Horse Protection Act authorizes the USDA to inspect Tennessee Walking Horses and Racking Horses – in transport to and at shows, exhibits, auctions and sales – for signs of soring, and to impose penalties against violators. Unfortunately, in recent years the enforcement of the Act has been plagued by underfunding. As a result, the USDA has not been able to adequately enforce the Act, allowing this extreme and deliberate cruelty to persist on a widespread basis.

The most effective way to meet the goals of the Act is for USDA officials to be present at more Tennessee Walking Horse shows. However, the current funding provision allows USDA attendance at only about 6% of shows. Although the USDA set up and has oversight of an industry-run system of certified Horse Industry Organization (HIO) inspection programs, which are charged with inspecting horses for signs of soring at the majority of shows These HIOs have often hired industry insiders who have an obvious stake in preserving the status quo. In the absence of strict USDA oversight, these programs often fail to accomplish the intent of the Act, and in some cases even take advantage of the lack of USDA oversight in order to thwart the intent of the Act. Statistics clearly show that when USDA inspectors are in attendance to oversee shows, the numbers of noted violations for some of the HIOs are many times higher than at shows where industry inspectors alone are conducting the inspections. By all measures, the overall DQP program has been a failure – the only remedy is to abolish it or greatly reduce dependence on this conflicted industry-run program of self-regulation and give USDA the resources it needs to adequately enforce the Act.

USDA appears to have recently attempted to step up its enforcement efforts, as evidenced in 2009 by a more than twofold increase over the previous year in the number of violations cited at the industry's largest show (the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration). However, the top three prize winning horses at that show were all found after their wins to have been in violation of the HPA, yet their owners and trainers were allowed to keep the titles and prizes awarded. Horses identified as sored at shows also continue to be shown in subsequent events, and their owners continue to win lucrative prizes and accolades. USDA needs enhanced resources to carry out its responsibilities as Congress intended, and the public expects.

Lack of a consistent presence by USDA officials at Tennessee Walking Horse events has fostered a cavalier attitude among industry insiders, who have not stopped their abuse, but have only become more clandestine in their soring methods. The continued use of soring to gain an advantage in the show ring has ruined the reputation of the Tennessee Walking Horse, both as a breed and show industry. The continued allowance of soring creates an unfair advantage for those who are willing to break the law in order to win in the show ring. Besides the cruelty to the horses, the continued acceptance of sored horses in the show ring unfairly disadvantages those with sound horses from competing fairly for prizes, breeding fees, and the value of their horses. Meanwhile, other owners whose horses are in training with unscrupulous trainers are often unwittingly suffering property damage and being duped into believing that their now abused, often permanently scarred horses are naturally superior.

Currently, when USDA inspectors arrive at shows, many exhibitors load up and leave to avoid being caught with sored horses. While USDA could stop these trailers on the way out, agency officials have stated that inspectors are wary of going outside of their designated inspection area, for fear of harassment and physical violence from exhibitors. Recently, armed security has been utilized to allow such inspections, at additional expense to this program. The fact that exhibitors feel they can intimidate government officials without penalty is a testament to the inherent shortcomings of the current system.

Further, in years past, inspections were limited to physical observation and palpation by the inspector. More recently, new technologies, such as thermography and "sniffer" devices (gas chromatography/mass spectrometry machines), have been developed, which can help inspectors identify soring more effectively. However, USDA has been unable to purchase and put enough of this equipment in use in the field, allowing for industry insiders to continually evade detection. With increased funding, the USDA could purchase this equipment and train more inspectors to use it properly, greatly increasing its ability to enforce the HPA.

The egregious cruelty of soring is not only a concern for animal protection and horse industry organizations, but also for equine veterinarians. In 2008, the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) issued a white paper condemning soring, calling it "one of the most significant welfare issues faced by the equine industry." It called for the abolition of the DQP Program, saying "the acknowledged conflicts of interest which involve many of them cannot be reasonably resolved, and these individuals should be excluded from the regulatory process." The AAEP further stated, "The failure of the HPA to eliminate the practice of soring can be traced to the woefully inadequate annual budget of $500,000 allocated to the USDA to enforce these rules and regulations."

It is unacceptable that nearly 40 years after passage of the Horse Protection Act, the USDA still lacks the resources needed to end this extreme form of abuse and the impact it has on the breed and overall commerce in it. It is time for Congress to give our public servants charged with enforcing this Act the support and resources they need to fulfill their duty to effectively protect these horses, those who compete fairly in showing them, and the public's interest in an industry that should be realizing its full potential as a positive source of commerce rather than being thwarted by illegal activity.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views about this serious problem, and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Matson
International Walking Horse Association

Irrigation ASSOCIATION
*Smart practices.
Sustainable solutions.*

6540 Arlington Blvd
Falls Church, VA 22042-6638
Tel: 703.536.7080
Fax: 703.536.7019
www.irrigation.org

Written Testimony from
Deborah M. Hamlin, Executive Director, Irrigation Association

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Industries

March 19, 2010

Madam Chair, Ranking Member Kingston, members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments relating to the appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011. My name is Deborah Hamlin and I am the executive director of the Irrigation Association.

The Irrigation Association is a trade association representing more than 2,000 member companies in the irrigation industry. Our members include irrigation product manufacturers, dealers, distributors, contractors and end users in the agricultural, landscape and golf industries. The mission of the Irrigation Association is to promote efficient irrigation and our expertise lies in ensuring every drop of water applied to a crop is done so in an efficient manner; cutting down on water waste, runoff, etc. Because we highly value the variety of benefits achieved with efficient on-farm water use, the Irrigation Association works collaboratively with various government agencies. One of the most notable and successful collaborations is with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For this reason, I'm eager to submit to you and the members of the subcommittee our FY2011 request of $1.588 billion for EQIP. This request mirrors the 2008 Farm Bill mandatory spending level for EQIP for FY2011.

Background

According to the USDA, the mission of EQIP is to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. To achieve this mission, EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants for installation or implementation of structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. In FY2008 alone, $1.18 billion was allocated throughout all 50 states for more than 48,000 EQIP approved projects. Nearly 24,000 projects went unfunded in the same fiscal year due to several reasons, including lack of funds available for the projects.

In addition to the historic primary functions of EQIP, the 2008 Farm Bill also created the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), which is funded through EQIP. AWEP is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. The Irrigation Association recognizes that without an increased focus on water quality, we run the risk of significantly affecting the water available for human health and sanitation as well as efficient irrigation. The agricultural community assists in this effort by promoting water quality through the reduction of runoff and using the water applied to their crops efficiently. The new AWEP strives to promote water quality and the FY2011 request of $1.588 billion to EQIP will allow the USDA to promote and administer AWEP successfully.

The U.S. Geological Survey 2005 Water Use Report states that withdrawals for irrigation in 2005 were 128 billion gallons/day, about eight percent less than in 2000 and approximately equal to estimates of irrigation water use in 1970. In 2005, irrigation withdrawals accounted for 37 percent of all freshwater withdrawals. However, if thermoelectric withdrawals are excluded, irrigation represented 62 percent of all freshwater withdrawals. In addition, irrigated acreage increased from 25 million acres in 1950 to 58 million acres in 1980, then remained fairly constant before increasing in 2000 and 2005 to more than 60 million acres. The number of acres irrigated using sprinkler and microirrigation systems has continued to increase and in 2005 accounted for 56 percent of the total irrigated acreage. The Irrigation Association joins the U.S.G.S. and the Department of the Interior in attributing the decrease in water use between 2000 and 2005 to significant increases in on-farm irrigation efficiency. EQIP played a significant role in assisting farmers with adopting more efficient irrigation equipment and machines, leading to increased yields with equal or lesser amount of water.

Success Story

The following is an example of how EQIP funds were used at an agricultural operation in Five Points, CA:

EQIP Utilization

- First center pivot was installed three years ago using EQIP
- Total of 12 center pivots currently installed
- All pivots were conversions from other irrigation type: furrow (inefficient, labor intensive) or hand move sprinkler (high pressure and high labor requirements)
- Installed first energy efficient pump station in 2010

EQIP Benefits

- Increased yields by 15%

- Saved 15% on water
- Energy savings of VFD pump technology expected this season
- Reduction of management tasks associated with tailwater
- Remote monitoring of pivots reduces labor and improves management capabilities
- Reduced fertilizer inputs and improved precision of application with center pivot (nutrients stay in the root zone and are not pushed through)

Request

The Irrigation Association is very appreciative of both Congress and the Administration for the continued support of EQIP. In the President's proposed budget for FY2011, more than $1.2 billion is proposed for EQIP. While we continue to support the original 2008 Farm Bill amount of $1.588 billion for EQIP, we thank the Administration for their recognition that EQIP funding needs to be increased and ask Congress to not only support the President's request, but increase it to the mandatory spending level.

The Irrigation Association looks forward to working with you and your committee during the FY2011 process. If you have any questions regarding EQIP or any other irrigation-related issue, please contact IA's Federal Affairs Director John Farner at john@irrigation.org or 703.536.7080, or IA's Agricultural Affairs Director Erin Huston at erin@irrigation.org or 805.415.5020.

Testimony of the Izaak Walton League of America Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

Submitted by Brad Redlin, Director, Agricultural Program

March 19, 2010

The Izaak Walton League of America appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for various agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. The League is a national, nonprofit organization founded in 1922. We have approximately 38,000 members and nearly 300 chapters and state divisions nationwide. Our members are committed to advancing common sense policies that safeguard wildlife and habitat, support community-based conservation, and address pressing environmental issues. The League has been a partner with farmers and a participant in forming agriculture policy since the 1930s. The following pertains to conservation programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 ("Farm Bill") was enacted with a prominent commitment to increased mandatory conservation spending. It was bi-partisan and supported by more than a thousand diverse organizations engaged in Farm Bill policy. We urge the Subcommittee to maintain the mandatory spending levels for conservation programs as provided in the Farm Bill. The League strongly opposes the administration's proposal to cut essential conservation programs by more than one-half billion dollars in fiscal year (FY) 2011 and beyond.

The League is also concerned that the administration's budget would not only deprive farmers and ranchers of conservation and environmental stewardship assistance in FY 2011, but would also reduce the Farm Bill conservation baseline by more than $1 billion, or nearly a quarter of the widely-lauded conservation increase. These programs benefit producers through improved soil quality and productivity of their land, and the American people through cleaner air and water and healthy habitat. Reducing the Farm Bill baseline in the face of increasing future demands for resource protection and productivity is counterproductive.

The League and its members across the country are especially focused on the following core conservation programs:

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) – The Farm Bill mandates 3.041 million acres, a $1.2 billion allocation over the life of the measure, for WRP. The president has proposed cutting WRP by more than 15,000 acres in FY 2011—a $111 million reduction from the FY 2010 funding level—and permanently cutting a total of 57,018 acres from the 2008 Farm Bill's mandatory total. Restoring the multi-benefit functions of wetlands and accompanying upland is the vitally important purpose of WRP, and a major priority for the League. We urge the Subcommittee to adhere to the carefully negotiated and mandated funding level established in the Farm Bill and reject the proposed cuts.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) – The Farm Bill adds 1.22 million acres to the GRP, scored at $300 million, over the life of the bill. The president's FY 2011 budget also proposes to permanently cut GRP by 183,662 acres, spending $22 million less next fiscal year than this one. The League opposes this reduction because it will undermine efforts to protect one of the country's most threatened natural resources.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – The Farm Bill established an annual enrollment of 13 million acres in CSP. In proposing to cut the program by 770,000 acres in FY 2011 (a $70 million cut), the administration threatens to undermine the tremendous potential of this new and innovative approach to agriculture policy. CSP makes conservation the basis for a producer to receive federal support rather than limitless subsidies for intensive production of a few select crops. This vital new CSP paradigm rewards producers for having and incorporating resource protecting practices throughout their entire farm or ranch operation. The League believes that federal policy and investment should actively encourage – not discourage – this approach.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – The Farm Bill established an investment baseline of $85 million annually for WHIP. The administration's proposal to permanently cut the program, unilaterally re-defining the baseline at $73 million annually, undermines an important and already modest program. WHIP is another example of a more comprehensive approach to conservation that supports producers while enhancing and expanding critical wildlife habitat that also benefits hunters and anglers. The League opposes efforts to reduce investment in WHIP.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – We were disappointed when the Farm Bill reduced the total acreage limit for CRP from 39.2 million to 32 million acres. However, the administration's budget is positive for CRP because it proposes to allow landowners to enroll up to 4 million acres in FY 2011. After the Farm Bill reduced the overall acreage limit for CRP—coupled with the fact that no new land was included in CRP in fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009—the commitment to once again allow farmers and ranchers to protect their most sensitive lands and most important habitat is especially welcome. Suspending sign-ups has left CRP with a current enrollment millions of acres below the reduced national total of 32 million acres, which provides additional urgency to enroll new acres. We encourage the Subcommittee to maintain the baseline established by the Farm Bill and full enrollment for CRP.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – The League further emphasizes the importance of fulfilling the commitment made to supporting habitat and hunter and angler access by fully funding the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program we championed in the 2008 Farm Bill. Commonly referred to as "Open Fields," this critical and very modest investment in wildlife conservation and public access must be funded at the required $16.67 million annual level.

Finally, effective implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs depends upon adequate technical resources to work with landowners in addressing their unique environmental concerns. Although conservation programs are available, under-investment in technical assistance limits agency support to assist farmers and ranchers in selecting and optimizing appropriate programs for their operations. Resource concerns and conservation practices vary throughout the country and the technical assistance provided to program participants is necessary to address specific environmental concerns. The technical expertise of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and partners that assist in the delivery of programs and technical assistance directly to landowners is necessary for the adoption and maintenance of conservation practices. We request that the Subcommittee support the mandatory levels of conservation program funding as provided in the Farm Bill to enable robust technical resources to implement those programs successfully.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of fully-funding agricultural conservation programs.

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Room 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

We write to request your leadership and support to fund the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the Department of Agriculture to implement its ongoing responsibilities under the Lacey Act plant provisions (Section 8204 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, P.L. 110-246).

The Lacey Act amendments, passed in 2008 with overwhelming support from Congress, industry, labor and environmental organizations, make it unlawful to trade wood products or other plants taken in violation of the laws of either a U.S. state or a foreign country. This ground-breaking legislation is already beginning to influence the way companies are making sourcing decisions and monitoring their supply chains. Full and effective implementation and enforcement of the Lacey Act will enable American forest product companies to compete fairly in the global marketplace, help keep jobs in the U.S., deter the destructive impacts of illegal logging on forests and forest-dependent communities in developing countries, and reinforce initiatives to mitigate climate change.

The law requires U.S. importers of wood products to file a declaration identifying the species name and country of harvest– a critical measure intended by the law's sponsors to increase supply chain transparency and assist U.S. agencies in fair and strong enforcement. The prohibition and the declaration requirement affect a wide array of American industry, so it is critical that the declaration process generates data in a streamlined, cost-effective manner without unduly burdening legitimate trade. To that end, APHIS, which is responsible for implementing the declaration provision, needs $5.5 million in funding to establish an electronic declarations database and to add internal capacity to perform data analysis needed for monitoring and enforcement purposes.

We recognize that this is a tight budget year; however, support for the Lacey Act amendments is critical as they herald U.S. leadership on a complex global environmental and business issue. Other key allies are watching the U.S. and looking to emulate this example. Thus we urge you to allocate adequate funds to APHIS in the FY11 Agriculture, FDA and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for effective implementation of its new responsibilities under the amended Lacey Act, to help curb the importation of illegally-sourced wood products into the United States.

Sincerely,

Amazon Watch
American Forest and Paper Association
Conservation International
Defenders of Wildlife
Dogwood Alliance
Double Helix Tracking Technologies
Environmental Investigation Agency
Friends of the Earth
Global Witness
Hardwood Federation
Humane Society International
Humane Society of the United States
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Alliance
Rainforest Relief
Sierra Club
Sustainable Furnishings Council
The Forest Trust
The Nature Conservancy
TRAFFIC
United Steelworkers
Wildlife Conservation Society
World Wildlife Fund

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairperson
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Representative DeLauro:

Support for fiscal year 2011 Federal Funding of 2.5 percent of the
U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program
(at least $20 million annually) for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has adopted a position supporting funding for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Title II program.

For 70 years, Metropolitan has provided imported water to the Southern California region from the Colorado River and the State Water Project originating in Northern California. Our mission is to provide high quality, reliable drinking water supplies primarily for municipal and industrial use. Metropolitan is the nation's largest provider of imported water to an urban area. The population today in our service area is 19 million and it is projected to rise to 25 million within the next 25 years. Metropolitan is comprised of 26 member public agencies that serve an area spanning 5,200 square miles and six southern California counties.

Water imported via the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) has the highest level of salinity of all of Metropolitan's sources of supply, averaging around 630 mg/L since 1976 and causing economic damages. For example, damages occur from:

- A reduction in the yield of salt sensitive crops and increased water use for leaching in the agricultural sector;

- A reduction in the useful life of galvanized water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers, and increased use of bottled water and water softeners in the household sector;

700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 • Mailing Address: Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • Telephone (213) 217-6000

- An increase in the use of water for cooling, and the cost of water softening, and a decrease in equipment service life in the commercial sector;

- An increase in the use of water and the cost of water treatment, and an increase in sewer fees in the industrial sector;

- A decrease in the life of treatment facilities and pipelines in the utility sector;

- Difficulty in meeting wastewater discharge requirements to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit terms and conditions, and an increase in desalination and brine disposal costs due to accumulation of salts in groundwater basins, and fewer opportunities for recycling due to groundwater quality deterioration; and

- Increased use of imported water for leaching and the cost of desalination and brine disposal for recycled water.

Concern over salinity levels in the Colorado River has existed for many years. To deal with the concern, the International Boundary and Water Commission approved Minute No. 242, Permanent and Definitive Solution to the International Problem of the Salinity of the Colorado River in 1973, and the President approved the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act in 1974. High TDS in the Colorado River as it entered Mexico and the concerns of the seven Colorado River Basin states regarding the quality of Colorado River water in the United States drove these initial actions. To foster interstate cooperation on this issue and coordinate the Colorado River Basin states' efforts on salinity control, the seven Basin states formed the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum).

The salts in the Colorado River system are indigenous and pervasive, mostly resulting from saline sediments in the Basin that were deposited in prehistoric marine environments. They are easily eroded, dissolved, and transported into the river system.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program reduces salinity by preventing salts from dissolving and mixing with the River's flow. Irrigation improvements (sprinklers, gated pipe, lined ditches) and vegetation management reduce the amount of salt transported to the Colorado River. Point sources such as saline springs are also controlled. The federal government, Basin states, and contract participants spend close to $50 million annually on salinity control programs.

The Program, as set forth in the Act, benefits both the Upper Colorado River Basin water users through more efficient water management and the Lower Basin water users, hundreds of miles downstream from salt sources in the Upper Basin, through reduced salinity concentration of Colorado River water. California's Colorado River water users are presently suffering economic damages in the hundreds of millions of dollars per year due to the River's salinity.

By some estimates, concentrations of salts in the Colorado River cause approximately $350 million in quantified damages in the lower Colorado River Basin states each year and significantly more in unquantified damages. Salinity control projects have reduced salinity concentrations of Colorado River water on average by over 100 mg/L with an economic benefit of $264 million per year (2005 dollars) in avoided damages.

Metropolitan urges this Subcommittee to support funding for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program for fiscal year 2011 of 2.5 percent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (at least $20 million annually) for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

These federal dollars will be augmented by the state cost sharing of 30 percent with an additional 25 percent provided by the agricultural producers with whom USDA contracts for implementation of salinity control measures. Over the past years, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control program has proven to be a very cost effective approach to help mitigate the impacts of increased salinity in the Colorado River. Continued federal funding of this important Basin-wide program is essential.

I would appreciate it if you make this statement a part of the formal hearing record concerning fiscal year 2011 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. I thank you for your Subcommittee's support of this program in years past and hope that you will again support funding to continue this valuable program.
With best regards,

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

cc: Mr. Jack Barnett
Executive Director
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
106 West 500 South, Suite 101
Bountiful, UT 84010

Mr. Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director
Colorado River Board of California
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203

TESTIMONY OF PHILIP GIUDICE, COMISSIONER, MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND CHAIR, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ENERGY OFFICIALS BEFORE THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

March 19, 2010

Chairperson DeLauro and members of the Subcommittee, I am Phil Giudice, Chairman of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). NASEO is submitting this testimony in support of funding of at least $39 million in discretionary appropriations for the Rural Energy for America (REAP) (Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill) in addition to the $70 million in mandatory funding. The REAP program was created as part of the 2002 Farm Bill and it has been a huge success. Over 3,500 clean energy projects have been implemented in every state since 2003. These activities have included energy efficiency projects, as well as wind, solar, biomass, anaerobic digesters, biodiesel and geothermal. Technical assistance has also been a big factor in this program. Funding requests are generally three times the amount of available funds. NASEO has worked with farmers, our state agricultural agencies and rural interests to promote this successful program. As we face dramatically increasing energy bills for all sectors of the economy (and increased volatility in energy prices), it is critical that we do more to address the energy problems of rural America.

Chairperson DeLauro, we know that you recognize the importance of the agricultural energy programs, as well as the state energy activities. You led the successful floor amendment to restore funds for the State Energy Program during the debate on the FY'06 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, and all the state energy offices are indebted to you for your contribution to a broad-based national energy policy. Recognizing your outstanding efforts, NASEO was pleased to present you with the National Energy Efficiency Advocate Award.

Greater energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the farm sector will help create jobs, reduce climate change, increase agricultural productivity and improve the environment. If significantly increased energy funding can be provided for the energy title of the Farm Bill, then this could effectively combine with efforts through the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, such as the State Energy Program, biorefineries, expanded alternative fuels programs, alternative fuels infrastructure, etc.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

CARING SERVICE FEEDING PEOPLE

Testimony for the Record

to

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development
Food and Drug Administration
And Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
2362A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

from

National CSFP Association (NCSFPA)
Leona Martens
Chair, Education Committee

March 19, 2010

National CSFP Association

Website: ***www.csfpcentral.org***

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro:

Madame Chairman and Subcommittee members, thank you for this opportunity to present information regarding the USDA/FNS Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

The National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association (NCSFPA) requests the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee fund CSFP for FY11 at $176.788 million, as requested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and include language directing the Department to utilize all available resources to supplement the CSFP food package and meet the rising demand for nutritional assistance among our vulnerable senior population.

This first effort at national food assistance began in 1969 with monthly packages designed to supplement protein, calcium, iron, vitamins A and C for low-income mothers and children (preceding WIC); nutrients shown to be lacking in the diets of low-income households. Low-income seniors added in 1983 now comprise 96% of all CSFP participants.

CSFP is a unique program that brings together federal and state agencies, along with public and private entities, The USDA purchases specific nutrient-rich foods at wholesale prices. State agencies provide oversight, contract with community and faith based organizations to warehouse and distribute food, certify eligibility and educate participants. The local organizations build broad collaboration among non-profits, health units, and area agencies on aging for simple, fast access to the supplemental foods (canned fruits and vegetables, juices, meats, fish, peanut butter, cereals, grain products, cheese and dairy products from American farmers) and nutrition education to improve participants health and quality of life. This partnership reaches even homebound seniors in both rural and urban settings with vital nutrition and remains an important "market" for commodities supported under various farm programs.

In FY09, the CSFP provided services through 150 non-profit community and faith-based organizations at 1,800 sites located in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and two Indian Tribal Organizations (Red Lake, Minnesota and Oglala Sioux, South Dakota). On behalf of those organizations NCSFPA would like to express our gratitude for the increased FY10 funding. We are most appreciative for the funding increase that has allowed CSFP to begin in 7 new states, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah, and has also resulted in a significant increase in the number of individuals who are now able to participate in the program in the other CSFP states.

CSFP's 41 years of service is a testimony to the power of community partnerships of faith-based organizations, farmers, private industry and government agencies. The CSFP offers a unique combination of advantages unparalleled by any other food assistance program:

- The CSFP specifically targets our nation's most nutritionally vulnerable populations: young children and low-income seniors - many of whom will not qualify for other nutrition assistance programs.
- The CSFP provides a monthly selection of food packages tailored to specific nutritional needs. Eligible participants are guaranteed [by law] a certain level of nutritional assistance, nutrition education, and food preparation guidance each month. The nutritional content of the food provided has improved with the introduction of low-fat cheese, canned fruits packed in fruit juice, and low-salt canned vegetables.
- The CSFP purchases foods at wholesale prices, directly supporting American farmers. The average food package cost is estimated at $19.82 and the retail value is $50.00-$60.00.
- The CSFP involves the entire community. Thousands of volunteers and private companies donate money, equipment, and most importantly time and effort to deliver food to needy and homebound seniors. These volunteers not only bring food but companionship and other assistance to seniors who might have limited support systems. (See Attachment 1)

In a recent CSFP survey, more than half of seniors living alone reported an income of less than $750 per month. One-half of respondents from two-person households reported an income under $1,000 per month. 25% were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and 50% said they ran out of food during the month. 70% of senior respondents said they choose between medicine and food.

The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has consistently supported CSFP, acknowledging it as a cost-effective way of providing nutritious supplemental foods. Congress provided funding to meet the rising need among the elderly in the FY10 appropriation. USDA's budget request will provide adequate resources for our monthly caseload of 604,931 mothers, children and seniors, and we urge the Subcommittee to accept it. We also want to be sure that you are aware that four additional states are either considering or preparing to submit applications to USDA for approval. Should USDA's approval be granted, it may be necessary to reconsider if funds beyond those requested will be required to allow newly approved states to begin operations in FY 2011.

CSFP and other nutrition programs such as SNAP, are only supplemental programs by design. Together they cover a shortfall that many seniors face each month. These programs must have support to meet the increasing need as part of the "safety net".

> *"The Managers fully support continued operation of this program and recognize the need for a substantial expansion of CSFP..... the Managers encourage the Secretary to approve all remaining states for expansion and to expand caseload in all participating states."* Joint Statement of Managers, H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

> *"CSFP has charms worth considering in designing human service programs..... the program's trademarks were its simplicity and accessibility..... CSFP in particular represents a guaranteed source of high quality food, delivered in a balanced package."* The Role of

CSFP in Nutritional Assistance to Mothers, Infants, Children and Seniors. The Urban Institute, August 2008.

The National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association requests the following:

To continue serving our monthly caseload of 604,931 needy seniors (96% of participants), women, infants and children (4% of participants).	*$175.888 Million*
To meet USDA's commodity procurement expenses.	*$0.9 Million*
Total FY11 request	**$176.788 Million**

A 1997 report by the National Policy and Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging at Florida International University, Miami-- Elder Insecurities: Poverty, Hunger, and Malnutrition indicated that malnourished elderly patients experience 2 to 20 times more medical complications, have up to 100% longer hospital stays, and incur hospital costs $2,000 to $10,000 higher per stay. Proper nutrition promotes health, treats chronic disease, decreases hospital length of stay and saves health care dollars. America is aging. CSFP must be an integral part of Senior Nutrition Policy and plans to support the productivity, health, independence and quality of life for America's seniors, many of whom now need to continue working at least part-time beyond retirement age to afford basics.

The CSFP is committed grassroots operators and dedicated volunteers with a mission to provide quality nutrition assistance economically, efficiently, and responsibly always keeping the needs and dignity of our participants first. We commend the Food Distribution Division of Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture for their continued innovations to strengthen the quality of the food package and streamline administration.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Leona Martens

Leona Martens
National CSFP Association, Education Committee Chair

FY08 National CSFP Association Administrative Expense/Value Survey

Programs	USDA Reimbursed Cash	Not Reimbursed by USDA Cash	CSFP Expenditures Cash	Goods & Services donated to agency Value	Volunteer Labor Hours Value	Annual Total Program Value	% Paid by USDA	Extra Goods donated to CSFP participants
New Hampshire	$ 461,361	$ 0	$ 461,361	$ 0	$ 61,121	$ 522,482	88%	$ 16,097
New York	$ 1,947,012	$ 2,500,050	$ 4,447,062	$ 35,700	$ 3,964	$ 4,471,716	44%	$ 6,500
Vermont FB	$ 233,132	$ 0	$ 233,132	$ 0	$ 0	$ 233,132	100%	$ 0
Washington DC	$ 434,965	$ 1,600,000	$ 2,034,965	$ 800,000	$ 173,612	$ 3,008,577	14%	$ 0
Pennsylvania	$ 912,209	$ 18,637	$ 930,846	$ 32,169	$ 48,259	$ 1,011,274	90%	$ 100,000
Kentucky	$ 980,911	$ 64,645	$ 1,045,556	$ 0	$ 34,577	$ 1,080,133	91%	$ 654,093
Mississippi	$ 437,969	$ 0	$ 437,969	$ 30,539	$ 199,887	$ 668,395	66%	$ 7,104
North Carolina	$ 75,126	$ 0	$ 75,126	$ 0	$ -	$ 75,126	100%	$ 0
South Carolina	$ 232,192	$ 0	$ 232,192	$ 0	$ 1,342	$ 233,534	99%	$ 22,500
*Tennessee	$ 840,812	$ 0	$ 840,812	$ 0	$ 0	$ 840,812	100%	$ 0
Illinois	$ 869,405	$ 0	$ 869,405	$ 0	$ 25,643	$ 895,048	97%	$ 0
Indiana	$ 269,732	$ 25,000	$ 294,732	$ 25,000	$ 68,502	$ 388,234	69%	$ 32,188
Michigan	$ 4,861,625	$ 314,317	$ 5,175,942	$ 310,168	$ 1,722,543	$ 7,208,653	67%	$ 4,637,316
Minnesota	$ 881,829	$ 319,848	$ 1,201,677	$ 2,213	$ 449,733	$ 1,653,623	53%	$ 864,860
*Red Lake, MN	$ 6,204	$ -	$ 6,204	$ -	$ -	$ 6,204	100%	$ 0
Ohio	$ 978,880	$ 198,896	$ 1,177,776	$ 65,779	$ 328,264	$ 1,571,819	62%	$ 169,774
Wisconsin	$ 316,547	$ 50,000	$ 366,547	$ 0	$ 275,406	$ 641,953	49%	$ 54,610
Louisiana	$ 4,089,578	$ 0	$ 4,089,578	$ 330,000	$ 1,104,420	$ 5,523,998	74%	$ 0
New Mexico	$ 1,032,128	$ 129,911	$ 1,162,039	$ 248,791	$ 233,955	$ 1,644,785	63%	$ 479,643
Texas	$ 997,895	$ 157,200	$ 1,155,095	$ 0	$ 297,774	$ 1,452,869	69%	$ 0
Colorado	$ 1,104,198	$ 67,533	$ 1,171,731	$ 57,449	$ 119,319	$ 1,348,499	82%	$ 1,343,961
Iowa	$ 216,086	$ 353,567	$ 569,653	$ 0	$ 13,263	$ 582,916	37%	$ 0
Kansas	$ 328,548	$ 7,200	$ 335,748	$ 10,000	$ 83,642	$ 429,390	77%	$ 89,519
Missouri	$ 583,040	$ 0	$ 583,040	$ 0	$ 16,608	$ 599,648	97%	$ 0
*Montana	$ 425,091	$ 0	$ 425,091	$ 0	$ 0	$ 425,091	100%	$ 0
Nebraska	$ 820,898	$ 75,529	$ 896,427	$ 40,470	$ 301,647	$ 1,238,544	66%	$ 70,679
*North Dakota	$ 175,413	$ 0	$ 175,413	$ 0	$ 0	$ 175,413	100%	$ 0
South Dakota	$ 176,228	$ 8,416	$ 184,644	$ 0	$ 26,464	$ 211,108	83%	$ 0
*Oglala Sioux, SD	$ 40,360	$ 0	$ 40,360	$ 0	$ 0	$ 40,360	100%	$ 0
Alaska	$ 132,803	$ 65,000	$ 197,803	$ 1,015,000	$ 104,235	$ 1,317,038	10%	$ 0
Arizona	$ 940,739	$ 252,000	$ 1,192,739	$ 2,000	$ 184,312	$ 1,379,051	68%	$ 2,000,000
California	$ 3,373,339	$ 580,027	$ 3,953,366	$ 15,400	$ 1,268,232	$ 5,236,998	64%	$ 575,140
Nevada	$ 371,461	$ 174,278	$ 545,739	$ 0	$ 24,960	$ 570,699	65%	$ 179,400
Oregon	$ 84,166	$ 96,573	$ 180,739	$ 4,436	$ 44,517	$ 229,692	37%	$ 5,300
Washington	$ 228,871	$ 7,500	$ 236,371	$ 208,000	$ 90,076	$ 534,447	43%	$ 0
Grand Total	**$ 39,863,763**	**$ 7,062,877**	**$ 46,926,640**	**$ 3,236,086**	**$ 7,276,137**	**$ 57,440,863**	**69%**	**$ 11,306,319**

* no information provided   Feb. 24, 09   Client Extras incl.: childrens, fresh produce, clothing, books, toys, health screenings, personal care items, energy efficient items, dairy, baked goods, gift cards, etc.

NCFC®

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES
STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC
March 19, 2010

Chairwoman DeLauro, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for your continued leadership and support for U.S. agriculture. The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) appreciates this opportunity to submit our views regarding the FY 2011 agriculture appropriations bill, and respectfully requests this statement be made part of the official hearing record.

NCFC represents the interests of America's farmer cooperatives. There are nearly 3,000 farmer cooperatives across the U.S. whose members include a majority of our nation's more than 2 million farmers.

We believe that our farmer cooperative members offer the best opportunity for America to realize the farmer-focused ideal of American agricultural policy. These farmer cooperatives allow individual farmers the ability to own and lead organizations that are essential for continued competitiveness in both the domestic and international markets.

America's farmer-owned cooperatives provide a comprehensive array of services for their members. These diverse organizations handle, process and market virtually every type of agricultural commodity produced. They also provide farmers with access to infrastructure necessary to manufacture, distribute and sell a variety of farm inputs. Additionally, they provide credit and related financial services, including export financing.

In all cases farmers are empowered, as elected board members, to make decisions affecting the current and future activities of their cooperative. Earnings derived from these activities are returned by cooperatives to their farmer-members on a patronage basis thereby enhancing their overall farm income.

America's farmer cooperatives also generate benefits that strengthen our national economy. They provide jobs for nearly 250,000 Americans with a combined payroll over $8 billion. Many of these jobs are in rural areas where employment opportunities are often limited.

Congress faces many challenges in the current budget environment and we appreciate the difficulty of your task. However, we want to emphasize the continued importance of policies under the current Farm Bill that promote an economically healthy and competitive U.S. agricultural sector.

These programs serve a variety of purposes including: meeting the food, fuel and fiber needs of consumers worldwide, strengthening farm income, improving our balance of trade, promoting rural development, and creating needed jobs.

There is a long history of congressional support for farmer cooperatives, recognizing that they serve a variety of essential functions for American agriculture. Some of these functions include: enhancing producers' overall income, managing their risk, capitalizing on new market opportunities, and helping individual farmers work together to compete more effectively in a global economy.

Given these vital tasks that farmer cooperatives perform on behalf of their members, it is extremely important that they retain the flexibility to modernize and adapt to the current and future marketplace confronting U.S. agriculture. Accordingly, in addition to supporting basic farm and commodity programs under the current Farm Bill, we recommend the following:

USDA Export Programs

We continue to strongly support USDA's export programs, which are vital to maintaining and expanding U.S. agricultural exports, counter subsidized foreign competition, meet humanitarian needs, protect American jobs, and strengthen farm income.

NCFC is a longstanding member of the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports. The Coalition supports the Administration's proposed funding increases to several export promotion activities, but Coalition members are very concerned with the Administration's proposed 20 percent reduction to the Market Access Program (MAP). MAP has been very successful in helping develop, maintain, and expand long-term export markets for U.S. agricultural products. U.S. agriculture is reliant on exports, which account for about one-third of farm cash receipts. And, given that over 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside the United States, foreign markets are critical for U.S. agriculture to expand sales and boost incomes. In addition, the ability of cooperatives to use MAP funding helps give individual farmers the ability to market their products overseas, which they otherwise would not be able to do on their own. As part of the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress authorized $200 million for MAP and we urge the subcommittee to support funding at the authorized level.

NCFC also supports full funding of the Foreign Market Development program, the Export Credit Guarantee Programs, the Dairy Export Incentive Program, and Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops.

Food Aid and Foreign Assistance Programs

NCFC strongly supports maintaining funding for America's food aid programs to meet humanitarian needs, enhance the potential growth in recipient countries, and stimulate the economy in the United States. Given the ongoing food crisis for many nations, the amount and dependability of U.S.-produced food aid from USDA's Food for Peace program (P.L. 480) is crucial to our humanitarian assistance efforts. Specifically we recommend full funding of P.L. 480 Title II for emergency and non-emergency food assistance programs at the $2.5 billion authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill. We also urge the Subcommittee to reject any proposals to divert funds from the P.L. 480 Title II program to Local and Regional Purchase programs.

NCFC also supports the goals and objectives and full funding of USDA's Food for Progress and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Additionally, we want to take this opportunity to urge support for needed funding and resources for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. This funding is crucial if we are to continue to effectively carry out trade and assistance programs, and to provide the technical assistance and support needed to help maintain and expand U.S. agricultural exports.

USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RB-CS)

Several years ago, the Cooperative Service was eliminated as a separate agency within USDA. Since that time, the focus of research, education and technical assistance for farmer cooperatives has eroded. Funding for such purposes has generally been provided through the salary and expense budget relating to rural development. For FY 2011, the administration's budget proposal provides $730 million in both budget authority and program level for salaries and expenses for the rural development mission area, compared to $715 million for FY 2010.

In addition to ensuring that RB-CS has the funding for resources to assist in enhancing the competitiveness of farmer-owned cooperatives, we suggest the committee include report language directing RB-CS to improve the usability and scope of its statistics and data. In particular, the data should include information regarding farmer cooperatives' positive impact on competition in the market place and on rural communities.

Energy

Cooperatives play a significant role in the development and marketing of renewable fuels, both ethanol and biodiesel. Many cooperatives are also investigating opportunities for renewable energy from biomass such as dairy manure. In addition, USDA programs are being used more and more by cooperatives to improve energy efficiency in their facilities. We strongly support funding for important grant, loan and related programs which research and promote the development and advancement of biofuels and opportunities for biomass, as well as such programs that assist in reaching energy efficiency goals.

Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants

USDA's Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants Program encourages and enhances farmer and farmer cooperative participation in value-added businesses. These new ventures are intended to help producers capture a larger share of the value of their production and improve their overall income from the marketplace. These activities also promote economic development and create needed jobs in rural areas.

The program is administered on a matching-fund basis, thereby doubling the impact of such grants and helping encourage investment in rural America. As a cost-share program, it is as an excellent example of an effective public-private partnership bringing a number of self-sustaining products to market.

Since the program's inception, NCFC has strongly support the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grants Program. However, the program is not useful to cooperatives if they cannot meet the application and eligibility requirements. This was the case for the 2009 program when USDA imposed requirements that were too burdensome, and in some cases impossible, for many cooperatives meet. We are hopeful that the Subcommittee will look favorably upon funding the program up to the $40 million as authorized under the Farm Bill in the hopes that USDA does not again impose unnecessary and overly stringent requirements on cooperatives and thus limit their participation.

B&I Loan Guarantee Program and Farmer Cooperatives

Access to equity capital is one of the major challenges facing farmer cooperatives. A successful resolution of this challenge is essential in helping farmers capture more of the value of what they produce beyond the farm gate.

For FY 2011, the administration's budget proposal provides an overall program level of $942 million, which represents a decrease from the $993 million in loans estimated to be guaranteed in FY 2010. Accordingly, we recommend that resources be increased to at least the FY2010 estimated level.

Rural Business Enterprise Grants

The Rural Business Enterprise Grants was reauthorized under the current Farm Bill to help foster rural economic development by encouraging and facilitating equity investments in rural business enterprises, including farmer cooperatives. Again, providing improved access to equity capital is essential to allowing farmers to capitalize on value-added business opportunities through farmer cooperatives. For these reasons, we urge that the program be fully funded as authorized and implemented as Congress intended.

Research

Another important area of emphasis when it comes to enhancing the global competitiveness of farmer cooperatives and American agriculture is research. NCFC is a member of the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research, and supports their goals of increasing federal food and agriculture research. We also joined with over 50 other agriculture groups in supporting funding for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, which was authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Conservation

We also want to express our strong support for important conservation and related programs administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provide needed financial and technical assistance to help farmers and others who are eligible to develop and carry out conservation and related activities to achieve important environmental goals. We support continued funding as prescribed in the Farm Bill for these important working lands conservation programs.

Commodity Purchase Programs

USDA annually purchases a variety of commodities for use in domestic and international feeding programs, including the school lunch program. NCFC strongly supports such programs to: (1) meet the food and nutrition needs of eligible consumers and (2) help strengthen farm income by encouraging orderly marketing and providing farmers with an important market outlet, especially during periods of surplus production.

As you are well aware, decades of public policy has reinforced the fact that the cooperative stands in the shoes of its farmer-owners, as they act for their mutual benefit. This is consistent with USDA's historic support of cooperative efforts and essential to ensure the continued availability of high quality products on a competitive basis. Therefore, it is important to ensure that farmers and their cooperatives remain fully eligible to participate in these programs.

Conclusion

Thank you again, Chairwoman DeLauro and members of the Subcommittee, for the opportunity to share our views. We look forward to working with the committee to ensure continued benefits for rural communities, consumers, American agriculture and our nation as a whole.

Written Statement
Submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
March 19, 2010

Gerald R. Iwan, Ph.D., Executive Director
National Environmental Services Center
West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. We request \$3.5 million for the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC), a program that provides water infrastructure services for small communities and rural areas nationwide.

Introduction

My name is Gerald Iwan, and I represent the National Environmental Services Center (NESC), located at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Previously, I was for 20 years the drinking water administrator for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, during which time I oversaw the implementation of all regulatory aspects of the Safe Drinking Water Act. In my current assignment with NESC, I manage a unique program with nationally recognized expertise in drinking water, wastewater, and small community infrastructure security and emergency preparedness. NESC provides access to an in-depth repository of information and specialized technical assistance and training services.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges

More than 41,000 small community water systems in the United States provide drinking water to communities of 3,300 people or less (EPA, 2009). These systems are mandated to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in providing reliable and safe water services to their citizens. Small water systems perform with limited financial, human and equipment resources and account for the majority of SDWA violations. The U.S Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Water and Wastewater Grants and Loans program may be the only option small systems have to obtain funding to address necessary system improvements. However, reliable technical assistance provided by organizations such as NESC is also necessary to help them overcome the many challenges they and their operators face in complying with local, state and federal regulations.

Recognizing these challenges, the USDA funds "Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training (RWTA) Programs" through authorization in the *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act* (the Farm Bill). NESC's National Drinking Water Clearinghouse is one RWTA program. We have been funded by USDA for 19 years to help communities and rural areas identify and evaluate solutions to water or wastewater problems, improve facility operation and maintenance, and prepare funding applications for water or wastewater treatment facility construction projects.

Deliverables Provided by the NDWC

The NDWC serves local officials, utility managers, system operators and RWTA professionals in small and rural communities. Telephone callers obtain toll-free drinking water technical assistance from our staff of certified operators, engineers, and scientists. Our quarterly publication *On Tap*, a magazine for small drinking water systems, provides information about water treatment, financing, and management options and has 27,000 subscribers. A comprehensive website *www.nesc.wvu.edu* and searchable online databases featuring water, wastewater, security, and emergency preparedness resources for communities of 10,000 or fewer residents provides round-the-clock access to contemporary information for small water systems. Annually, visitors to our website view more than 3.5 million pages and download over 1.6 million documents. Training sessions customized for small and rural areas, teleconferences, and more than 700 free and low-cost educational products give people the instruction and tools they need to address their most pressing drinking water issues.

We anticipate an even greater need for NDWC services in 2011 due to the current recession, the severe winter conditions that have produced flood devastation, and the federal effort to stimulate the economy through infrastructure projects. Stimulus funding in the water sector has been directed to construction, with only a fraction directed to support water and wastewater facility operation and maintenance. Small and rural communities will need increased support from RWTA providers to plan for and protect their current and future utility assets. The NDWC has accordingly expanded its scope of deliverables for FY 2011 to provide additional services. It is imperative that the NDWC continues to receive funding from the Technical Assistance and Training Grants (TAT) account to assist small community drinking water systems.

Request

We request a congressionally directed appropriation of $3.5 million to continue and increase the NDWC program services through the Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Grants program. Thank you for considering our request.

Contact Information

National Drinking Water Clearinghouse
West Virginia University

Gerald R. Iwan	Richard A. Bajura
304-293-4191 Ext. 5584	304-293-2867 Ext. 5401
gerald.iwan@mail.wvu.edu	*richard.bajura@mail.wvu.edu*

National Organic Coalition

March 19, 2010

Testimony of

Steven Etka
Legislative Coordinator, National Organic Coalition

submitted to the

House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

regarding
Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Requests

For more information please contact:
703-519-7772
steveetka@gmail.com

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Kingston, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Steven Etka. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the National Organic Coalition (NOC) to detail our fiscal year 2011 funding requests for USDA programs of importance to organic agriculture.

The National Organic Coalition (NOC) is a national alliance of organizations working to provide a voice for farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, consumers, cooperative retailers and others involved in organic agriculture. The current members of NOC are the Beyond Pesticides, Center for Food Safety, Equal Exchange, Food and Water Watch, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, National Cooperative Grocers Association, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Northeast Organic Farming Association- Interstate Policy Council, Organically Grown Company, Rural Advancement Foundation International -USA, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

USDA/ Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

National Organic Program
Request: $10.08 million

Sales of organic food and beverages had experienced a rapid growth over the last decade, averaging nearly 20 percent per year. Even despite the recession, organic sales grew at a rate of 5 percent in 2009. The National Organic Program (NOP) is the agency charged with regulating and enforcing the USDA organic label. For years, the exponential growth of the organic industry has far outpaced the resources provided to the NOP, which has greatly limited the ability of NOP to fulfill its regulatory and enforcement role credibly.

Fortunately, both Congress and the Administration have heard this concern, and have responded with a steady increase in funding in the last two years to meet these needs. In addition, over the last year, the new leadership at USDA and NOP has taken significant steps to bolster the integrity of the program and public confidence in the organic label though issuance of long overdue regulations (e.g. pasture rule for organic ruminants) and through efforts to seek independent oversight of its accreditation procedures to assure compliance with international standards of quality management. In addition, NOP leadership has made its budget and its plans fully transparent to the public. These changes have met with widespread praise from the full spectrum of stakeholders in the organic sector, from consumers to farmers to handlers.

We are strongly supporting the Administration's FY 2011 request for $10.08 million for the National Organic Program (NOP), representing an increase of $3.11 million over last year's level. $2.11 million of this request is for regulatory review, enforcement and equivalency agreements; with an additional one-time amount of $1 million for assisting certifying agents in achieving compliance with international certification standards.

In addition, we are requesting inclusion of report language praising the agency for the significant improvements that have been made over the past year. In previous years, Congress has included report language urging improvements in the program. Now that many of these improvements are being made, it seems fitting for Congress to recognize the progress. We request inclusion of the following report language:

The Committee notes the significant improvements made in the administration of the National Organic Program over the last year, in keeping with the requests of this Committee in previous years. The Committee applauds the agency for the long-overdue publication of the final pasture rule for organic livestock, the decision to seek independent oversight and recognition of its accreditation procedures by NIST within the

Department of Commerce, and for its actions to make the NOP budget and planning process transparent to the public. These actions bolster the integrity of the USDA organic seal and enhance public confidence in that label.

USDA (AMS, ERS, NASS)

Organic Data Initiative
Request: $5 million

Authorized by Section 7407 of the 2002 Farm Bill, the Organic Production and Marketing Data Initiative states that the "Secretary shall ensure that segregated data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products is included in the ongoing baseline of data collection regarding agricultural production and marketing." Section 10302 of the Farm, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amends the provision further to provide mandatory funding, and to authorize $5 million annually in discretionary funding.

As the organic industry matures and grows at a rapid rate, the lack of national data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products has been an impediment to further development of the industry and to the effective functioning of many organic programs within USDA. The organic data collection and analysis effort at USDA has made significant strides in recent years, but remains in its infancy. Because of the multi-agency nature of data collection within USDA, organic data collection and analysis must also be undertaken by several different agencies within the Department: The Administration's FY 2011 budget requests $300,000 for AMS and $500,000 for NASS organic data collection. We are requesting the full $5 million to be appropriated for this initiative, to be divided between the three main data collection sub-agencies as follows:

Economic Research Service (ERS)	***Request: $1.5 million***
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)	***Request: $3 million***
National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS)	***Request: $500,000***

USDA/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Organic Transitions Program
Request: $5 million

The Organic Transition Program, authorized by Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Reform Act (AREERA) for Integrated Research Programs, is a research grant program that helps farmers surmount some of the challenges of organic production and marketing. As the organic industry grows, the demand for research on organic agriculture is experiencing significant growth as well. The benefits of this research are far-reaching, with broad applications to all sectors of agriculture, even beyond the organic sector. Yet funding for organic research is minuscule in relation to the relative economic importance of organic agriculture and marketing in this nation. Starting in FY09, the program has been administered in combination with the NIFA Water Quality integrated research program, to study the watershed impacts of organic systems.

The Organic Transition Program was funded at levels ranging between $2.1 and $1.8 million during the period of FY 2003 through FY 2009, and then received a significant increase to $5 million in FY 2010. The Administration's budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Organic Transition Program, as well as the other section 406 "integrated" programs within the NIFA budget, based on vague assertions that the needs will be met through other competitive grants research programs. The past Administration made similar recommendations regarding the 406 programs, which have been consistently rejected by Congress. We urge the Committee to continue to reject this proposal to defund the Organic Transition Program, and to provide FY 2011 funding at last year's level of $5 million.

Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)
Request: $10 million

OREI is USDA's flagship competitive research and education grant program specifically dedicated to the investigation of organic agriculture. The program is consistently oversubscribed and in FY 09 could only fund 17% of the funds requested. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized $25 million annually in discretionary funds, in addition to mandatory funds authorized. We request that $10 million be appropriated for OREI for FY 2011.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
Request: Report language on Conventional/Classical Plant and Animal Breeding

In recent decades, public resources for classical plant and animal breeding have dwindled, while resources have shifted toward genomics and biotechnology, with a focus on a limited set of major crops and breeds. This problem has been particularly acute for organic and sustainable farmers, who seek access to germplasm well suited to their unique cropping systems and their local environment.

Since Fiscal Year 2005, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has included report language raising concerns about this problem, and urging CSREES (now NIFA) to give greater consideration to research needs related to classical plant and animal breeding when setting priorities within the National Research Initiative/AFRI. Despite this report language, research proposals for classical plant and animal breeding that have sought AFRI funding in recent years have been consistently denied.

In Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the National Research Initiative was merged with the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems to become the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Congress included language within AFRI to make "conventional" plant and animal breeding a priority for AFRI research grants, consistent with the concerns expressed by the Appropriations Committee in preceding appropriations cycles.

When CSREES released its AFRI Program Announcement for FY 2009, it invited research proposals on conventional/classical plant and animal breeding. However, when researchers submitted their initial letters of intent spelling out their research topics in the arena, they were nearly all rejected in the pre-proposal stage. We are awaiting the FY 2010 AFRI Request for Applications. After numerous meetings with NIFA leadership and letters urging the full inclusion of the classical breeding into the FY 2010 funding priorities, we are anxious to see how the agency responds to this need, and the strong expressions of both the Congressional appropriators and authorizers on this matter.

We are requesting report language from the Subcommittee to reiterate that the funding for classical plant and animal breeding should be a priority area within the AFRI process.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
Request: $30 million ($25 million for research and education grants; and $5 million for professional development grants)

The SARE program has been very successful in funding on-farm research on environmentally sound and profitable practices and systems, including organic production. The reliable information developed and distributed through SARE grants have been invaluable to organic farmers. The President's budget requests $30 million for SARE program for Fiscal Year 2011, including $10 million to start the Federal-State Matching Grant program. Consistent with the President's request, we are requesting $25 million for research and education grants (including $10 million for the Federal-State Matching Grant program) and $5 million for professional development grants.

USDA/Rural Business Cooperative Service

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)
Request: $3 million

ATTRA, authorized by Section 6016 on the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, is a national sustainable agriculture information service, which provides practical information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, Extension agents, educators and others interested and active in sustainable agriculture. ATTRA interacts with the public, not only through its call-in service and website, but also provides numerous excellent publications written to help address some of the most frequently asked questions of farmers and educators. Much of the real-world information provided by ATTRA is extremely helpful to both the conventional and organic communities, and is available nowhere else. As a result, the growth in demand for ATTRA services has increased significantly, both through the website-based information services and through the growing requests for workshops. We are requesting $3 million for ATTRA for FY 2011. .

USDA/ Agriculture Research Service (ARS)

Classical Plant and Animal Breeding Activities
Request: $9.03 million

As noted above in the AFRI section of this request, public resources for classical plant and animal breeding have dwindled in recent decades, and as a result, our capacity for public breeding in at critical point. While USDA's statutory obligation to address this problem through the AFRI competitive grant program remains strong, USDA's ARS also has an obligation in this regard. Although ARS has the resources and expertise to help reverse this dangerous trend, the agency has not made a concerted effort in this regard, until now. The Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 budget requests an increase of $4.289 million for "crop breeding to enhance food and production security" and other $4.75 million for "crop protection to enhance food and production security," with a clear focus on classical plant and animal breeding activities.

As described on pages 16-19 and 16-29 of the USDA Budget Justifications document:

"Sustainability of our Nation's food supply depends on a continuous supply of improved plant varieties with protection from emerging diseases, insects, and damaging environmental conditions. While there has been

major investment in the public and private sector in new genomic and biotechnology strategies for crop improvement, classical plant breeding research and expertise continues to be a major but unmet need. Developing improved seeds and new varieties requires effective methods and expertise in selecting desired traits ("phenotyping") and field evaluation. There is an urgent national and international need for more research and expertise in classical, conventional plant breeding. New emerging diseases such as citrus greening and cereal rusts are threatening the future supply of food crops. Temperature extremes and reduced water supplies provide new challenges for crop production.

Breeding research is particularly needed to improve complex traits that require long-term research and challenging methods such as developing perennial grains with high seed yields, as well as integrating disease resistance and weather stress tolerance genes from wild and weedy relatives of crop plants. Perennial grain production systems offer benefits in soil and water conservation, and decreased dependence on fertilizer and fuel inputs. The Land Institute, Salinas, Kansas, has led in developing perennial grain varieties and production systems. More breeding and disease protection research is needed to increase the production capacity of perennial grains and to optimize perennial grain production systems.

The need for classical breeding research and expertise is growing, but the supply of trained classical plant breeders is diminishing worldwide. The entire plant breeding industry faces a shortage of trained plant breeders as a result of industry expansion. Also, traditional partner disciplines for plant breeding, such as statistics, plant pathology, physiology, and entomology have often shifted away from field-based, practical plant breeding applications. ARS has a force of more than 125 plant breeders, working in teams with plant pathologists, biologists, entomologists and other skilled crop scientists. Clearly, ARS has an obligation to increase training, and mentor more new plant breeders to meet this urgent need."

We strongly agree with the above statement and fully support the request for $9.03 million to meet this need. In addition, we request report language calling on ARS to report to the Committee about its activities in the area of classical breeding.

USDA/ Food and Nutrition Service

WIC Program

Report Language: Removing Barriers of Access to Organic Foods for WIC recipients

Despite the growing body of peer-reviewed research demonstrating the human health benefits of organic food, particularly for pregnant mothers and small children, many States have greatly limited or prohibited access to organic foods as part of the WIC program. Some of the barriers are explicit, whereby WIC recipient are expressly prohibited in some states from using their WIC certificates or vouchers for organic versions of WIC foods. Others barriers are indirect, such as rules that make it difficult for retail stores that carry organic foods from participating in the program. Therefore, we are requesting that report language be included in the Food and Nutrition Service section of the FY 2011 Appropriations report, such as:

"The Committee is concerned about the number of States the have set up barriers within the WIC program to hinder or prohibit WIC recipients from purchasing organic food. The Committee strongly urges FNS to actively encourage States to remove barriers to the purchase of organic foods as part of the basic food instrument, and to understand the nutritional and health benefits of organic foods for the vulnerable populations served by this program."

NATIONAL RURAL HOUSING COALITION

1331 G Street, N.W., 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 • (202)393-5229 • fax (202)393-3034 • http://ruralhousingcoalition.org

Statement of Robert A. Rapoza
Executive Secretary
National Rural Housing Coalition
Fiscal Year 2011 Rural Housing and Community Development Appropriations Recommendations

Introduction

Even before the financial crisis and the great recession, it was hard to argue that rural America was not in economic distress. Rural communities have higher poverty and unemployment rates than other metropolitan areas and the rural communities have higher incidents of substandard housing and rent overburden. Virtually every community in the country with inadequate drinking water has a population of 3300 or less. The financial crisis finds rural America in worse shape still. Although the sub-prime crisis is largely viewed as urban, a significant portion of micropolitan areas have high rates of foreclosures, and delinquencies.

The Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture recently released updated typologies for the Nation's counties. The classification includes a new typology which identifies 15 percent of non-metropolitan counties as housing stressed. In these counties, 30 percent or more of homes are considered too costly relative to household incomes, are too crowded, or lack certain basic facilities, such as a complete kitchen or bathroom. Also according to the Economic Research Service, some 4 million rural families live in "housing poverty", a multidimensional indicator that combines measures of economic need, housing quality, and neighborhood quality.

Below follows the recommendations of the National Rural Housing Coalition (NRHC) in support of Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations for the rural housing and community development programs administered by the Department of Agriculture. These programs provide loans; grants and related assistance that help low income families gain better housing, clean drinking water and also create jobs.

Of particular importance:

- Section 515 rural rental housing loans play a critical role in new construction and renovation of existing rental housing units in many of our nation's rural areas. There is a pressing for new construction in rural areas. Some of the most significant housing problems are faced by rural rental households who tend to have lower incomes and are more likely than their owner counterparts to live in substandard housing. Even though housing costs are typically lower in rural areas, many rural households, especially renters, have difficulty meeting these expectations. Renters in rural areas are the worst housed individuals and families in the country. Thirty-five percent of rural renters are cost-burdened paying more than 30% of their income for housing costs. Almost one million rural renter households suffer from multiple housing problems, 60% of whom pay more than 70% of their income for housing. The preservation of affordable rental housing in rural areas is another crucial issue that needs to be addressed.

There is also a pressing need to preserve the existing portfolio of some 450,000 low-income families and elderly households live in rental housing financed under Section 515. These properties in the loan portfolio are aging: some 89 percent of these properties are at least 10 years old, and 64 percent are at least 15 years old. Their major infrastructure systems are at or near obsolescence and need rehabilitation or replacement. A 2004 USDA study indicates that there is a funding gap of some $2 billion to preserve and maintain the current portfolio. NRHC recommends $250 million for new construction section 515 to finance approximately 3000 units of rural rental housing $20 million for rental assistance for the new construction and $300 million in budget authority for the rural rental housing restructuring demonstration program.

- Section 502 direct ownership loans is the lowest cost home ownership program in the federal government. To house an eligible family for the full term of the mortgage (33 years) costs the government $7500. This low cost is particularly impressive when one considers who the program serves. Section 502 is the only federal program targeting homeownership opportunities to low- and very-low income rural households, defined as between 50 and 80 percent of area median income (AMI) for low, and below 50 percent of AMI for very-low income. The annual average income of a direct borrower is 55 percent of area median income, and some 46 percent of Section 502 families have incomes at 40 percent of area median. The average income of households assisted under Section 502 is $18,500, and about 3 percent of participating households have annual incomes of less than $10,000. We ask that Section 502 direct loans be funded at $2.5 billion. This amount will finance some 15,000 loans to low income household. It is vitally important that the nation's poorest rural families not be excluded during this time of crisis, making these and other rural housing programs even more important.

- The Self Help Housing program is an important element in the Administration's stated goal of increasing minority home ownership. NRHC supports $50 million for self help technical assistance grants.

According to the Office of Management and Budget (expectmore.gov):

"No other program combines the unique features which make the Self-Help program a success. The Section 523 grants provide support to Self-Help sponsors who provide technical assistance, recruiting, training, and supervising to families to earn "sweat equity." The Section 502 Direct loans provide subsidized financing which provides affordability and minimizes loan costs. This unique construction method also promotes strong communities by building close bonds among future neighbors. The program is also unique in serving the lowest income families who have no other homeownership opportunity, yet are able to succeed at a rate higher than other Section 502 borrowers and comparable to other borrowers."

- NRHC supports at least $50 million for farm labor housing loans and grants authorized under sections 514 and 516, respectively. Farmworkers are the worst-housed of all rural people. According to the Economic Research Service, housing conditions for migrant and seasonal farmworkers have long been substandard and there has not been any improvement in recent years. Farmworkers are also among the poorest of rural people. Sixty one percent of farmworkers earn incomes below the poverty line, and consequently three out of every five farmworker families live below the federal poverty line which is almost six times the national rate.

The **only** federal program targeted to the housing needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers is the section 514/516 loan and grant program administered by the Department of Agriculture and the Rural Housing Service. Over the history of this program, USDA has financed some 37,000 units for a cost of $1.27 billion.

Over the last several years, USDA has financed an average of 600 units per year. The amount is a far distance from addressing the need. For example, Texas has some 360,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and only about 1,300 units of farm labor housing. One project in California has a waiting list exceeding 800 families.

- The Rural Community Development Initiative provides technical assistance and training funds to qualified intermediary organizations to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. NRHC supports $12 million for Fiscal Year 2011.

- Rural Water-Waste Water Loans and Grants --Many rural communities across America do not have access to clean drinking water and safe waste disposal systems. The EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2004 showed that small communities of fewer than 10,000 population have documented needs of $17 billion for wastewater systems. For these same communities, the need for drinking water facilities is significantly higher totaling $59 billion.

  While small rural communities are home to less than 25 percent of the nation's population they account for over 85 percent of the nation's community water systems. Communities of fewer than 10,000 residents are more than twice as likely to violate drinking water standards for microbes and chemicals as systems serving greater than 10,000 population.

  According to EPA data, ratepayers of small rural systems are charged up to four times as much per household as ratepayers of larger systems. In some extreme situations, some households are being forced out of homeownership because they cannot afford rising user costs.

  USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is the primary federal force in rural water and waste development, providing loans and grants to low-income communities in rural areas. The agency assists low-income rural communities that would not otherwise be able to afford such services. Approximately one-fifth of the communities served live below the national poverty line.

  In FY 2009 USDA provided $1.565 billion in loans and $935 million in grants for 1,239 projects water and waste water projects. For FY 2010 RUS has on hand $1.167 billion in loans and $500 million in grants through the Recovery Act and $1.1 billion in loans and $472 million in grants through the FY 10 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

  There is still a substantial backlog of demand for rural water waste water financing with the dollar value of applications on hand totaling over $7.5 billion. NRHC recommends $ 1 billion in loans and $1 billion grants for FY 11.

NRHC supports the Administration proposal to revise fees for the section 502 guaranteed home ownership program. This program has now grown to $12 billion and in FY 10 was the largest single rural housing program in terms of budget authority, as well as program level. When this program was enacted, it was expected that fees would cover the cost of the program. That is clearly not the case as the FY 10 budget authority cost is $175 million.

To offset the cost of the guarantee program, the budget proposes to restructure the fee to 2% up front and an additional .15% annual fee for new and refinanced loans. In addition, the upfront fee for refinancing will increase to 1%. This will not limit affordability as the average additional monthly cost will amount to only about $11 per month.

Recently, USDA issued a field notice that the $12 billion authorized in the FY 10 bill will be exhausted by the end of April. We strongly support the proposal by Members of the Financial Services Committee who have urged the Appropriations Committee to provide a supplemental appropriation for the guarantee. That appropriation should be financed by adopting the Administration's fee proposal.

In the past NRHC has opposed various initiatives to plan or coordinate rural development resources. We are skeptical about the Regional Innovation Initiative. The 2011 budget includes $1.4 million in Rural Development for coordination of regional planning activities. It also includes a 5 percent set-aside of the funding for several USDA programs. This setaside will facilitate funding for projects that are part of a regional strategy, subject to projects meeting the eligibility requirements for the individual programs. The set-aside would amount to over $135 million in budget authority, which would be sufficient to support a program level of about $280 million.

On this matter, we are tempted to say "here we go again." Each Administration comes forward with new ways to coordinate rural development resources. A few demonstrations go forward, a new Administration takes over, and the cycle starts again.

Aside from the Recovery Act, there has been very little growth in federal rural development spending over the last 15 years. Most programs have declined in both budget authority and program level. Many of the accounts proposed for setasides under Regional Innovation or Healthy Foods are at the same level as FY 2000. We are perplexed by a budget readily admits that programs are over-subscribed and then proposes a 5% setaside for Regional Innovation and a 10% setaside for Healthy Foods.

We are also concern that a prompting a regional development strategy will leave out smaller poorer communities as resources flow to larger communities which appear to have greater potential for growth. Many rural communities still lack the essentials for economic growth: clean water, adequate community facilities, decent housing, and availability of credit. USDA should not divert resources from those communities. Given the economic distress in rural America we believe the best approach is to forego planning, coordination and the delay and expense that go with it and, instead, concentrate on improving facilities services and local rural economies.

It is our view that capacity building for rural communities is far more important and of great value than planning. As we noted, we support and increase, not elimination of USDA's capacity building program for rural communities and organizations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Written Statement on FY 2011 Requests
Submitted to the
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives – March 19, 2010

Contact: Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director, and Ariane Lotti, Policy Associate
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Thank you for the opportunity to present our funding requests for the fiscal year 2011 Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is an alliance of national, regional and local grassroots farm, rural and conservation organizations that together advocate for public policies that support the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources and rural communities.

Below is a summary of our requests, followed by a brief description and rationale for each item.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

FY 10 Actual	$14.5 M *(research & education)* + $4.7 M *(extension)* = $19.2 M total
USDA 11 Request	$15.0 M + $5.0 M + $10.0 M (*Federal-State Matching Grants*) = $30.0 M total
NSAC 11 Request	**$18.0 M + $5.0 M + $7.0 M = $30 M total**

Organic Transitions Program

FY 10 Actual	$5.0 M
USDA 11 Request	$0
NSAC 11 Request	**$5.0 M**

Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

FY 10 Actual	$0
USDA 11 Request	$0
NSAC 11 Request	**$3.0 M**

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Beginning Farmer Individual Development Account (IDA) Pilot Program

FY 10 Actual	$0
USDA 11 Request	$0
NSAC 11 Request	**$5.0 M**

Direct Farm Ownership and Operating Loans -- Program Levels

FY 10 Actual	$650.0 M + $1000.0 M
USDA 11 Request	$475.0 M + $900.0 M
NSAC 11 Request	**$650.0 M + $1000.0 M**

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Technical Assistance

FY 10 Actual	$887.6 M
USDA 11 Request	$923.7 M
NSAC 11 Request	**$923.7 M**

RURAL BUSINESS AND COOPERATIVE SERVICE

Value-Added Producer Grants

FY 10 Actual	$20.4 M
USDA 11 Request	$20.4 M
NSAC 11 Request	**$30.0 M**

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program

FY 10 Actual	$9.0 M	*(no limitation on $4 M in Farm Bill direct funding + $5 M discretionary)*
USDA 11 Request	$11.7 M	*(no limitation on Farm Bill $4 M mandatory + $7.7 M discretionary)*
NSAC 11 Request	**$11.7 M**	*(no limitation on Farm Bill $4 M mandatory +$7.7 M discretionary)*

GENERAL PROVISIONS – MANDATORY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Conservation Stewardship Program

FY 10 Actual	no limitation on mandatory farm bill direct funding
USDA 11 Request	permanent cut of 770,000 acres
NSAC 11 Request	**no limitation on farm bill direct funding**

Wetlands Reserve Program

FY 10 Actual	no limitation on mandatory farm bill funding
USDA 11 Request	permanent cut of 57,018 acres, including new 15,224 acre cut
NSAC 11 Request	**no limitation on direct farm bill funding**

We also oppose changes in mandatory funding for the other Farm Bill mandatory conservation programs.

GENERAL PROVISIONS – MARKETING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH

We support mandatory farm bill spending at their Farm Bill levels for the **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative**, **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**, **Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**, **Farmers' Market Promotion Program**, and **Community Food Grants**.

We support the general provision for the **Regional Innovation Initiative**. This initiative proposes a set aside of up to 5% from 20 existing programs for a total of $135 million and allocate these funds competitively among regional pilot projects tailored to local needs and opportunities.

JUSTIFICATIONS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE). We urge you to support the President's **FY 11 request for $30 million for SARE**, divided among **research and education grants ($25 million)** and **extension and professional development grants ($5 million)**. We propose the **Federal-State Matching Grants program** be included in the total for research and education grants (as it is in the SARE authorizing law) and funded at $7 million, or slightly less than the President' request.

SARE has funded farmer-driven research, education and extension initiatives into profitable, environmentally and socially sound practices for over twenty years. Funding SARE at $30 million would finally jumpstart the Federal-State Matching Grant program as well as the already-approved emphasis on farming systems research, while allowing the existing award-winning research program to continue, including the popular farmer research grant initiative.

By funding the matching grants program as envisioned by Congress, competitive grants could be awarded to state sustainable agriculture centers and institutes to develop innovative sustainable agriculture programs that address high-priority problems and opportunities; embed sustainable agriculture in university and statewide research, education, and extension; and leverage greater on-farm change. The huge demand for SARE grants has unfortunately limited the amount of funding into larger farming systems work. The proposed increase in research grant funding could begin to remedy this shortfall, and the SARE councils have already approved this shift, pending appropriations.

We strongly urge an increased commitment to SARE through an appropriation of $30 million in FY 11 that is consistent with sustainable agriculture's expanding role within our food and farming system and with the program's award-winning and cost-effective delivery of services.

Organic Transitions Research Program. We request **$5 million for FY 11** to maintain the funding level established in FY 10. Beginning in FY 09, this program was combined with the Water Quality integrated program to fund multi-year projects examining the effects of organic systems on water quality. The combined funding will focus resources on one of the most effective solutions to critical water quality problems. Maintaining the funding level established in FY 10 will allow the organic program to cooperate with other priority natural resource programs to provide environmental solutions in an integrated program with strong farmer delivery mechanisms built in. Without at least level funding, organic research and extension will fall even further behind in its overall share of the research budget, a share which continues to lag behind trends in agriculture.

Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. We request that you support $3 million to fund Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (Section 7521 of the 2008 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act). Antibiotic-resistant disease has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the number one public health challenge in the U.S. The 2008 Farm Bill addressed the need to create a program to conduct research to develop animal production systems less dependent on antibiotics. This program has not yet been launched, and we ask the Subcommittee to appropriate **$3 million to launch the program.**

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account (IDA) Pilot Program. We urge you to invest in the future of a diverse U.S. agriculture **by supporting the full $5 million amount authorized and requested for this exciting new program**. This competitive grants program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill enables beginning farmers and ranchers to open an Individual Development Account (matched savings account) in order to save for a farming-related asset, including farmland, farming equipment, breeding stock, trees or similar expenditures. A 50% local match is needed to obtain the federal grant. This program creates the technical infrastructure as well as the incentives to assist individuals who might not historically be able to save to make asset-building purchases to get started in farming. It would operate in 15 states initially.

Direct Farm Ownership and Operating Loans. We are grateful that Congress has provided more money in the last two years for these loans. However, even with the increased funding, the Farm Service Agency has already indicated that it is likely to run out of money before the current fiscal year ends and would require a supplemental to meet demand. In light of this and in light of the continuing financial crisis, it does not make sense to decrease the credit budget as the Administration proposes. **The budget should be at least level with FY 10** in order to meet increased demand. Lending from FSA is critical for family farms in general and particularly for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Technical Assistance. Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) is a critical addition to the mandatory conservation technical assistance provided to farmers enrolled in the farm bill conservation programs. Technical assistance is provided to agricultural producers enrolling in financial assistance programs as well as to help farmers with conservation planning and implementation without financial assistance, including conservation compliance plans. CTA also funds assessment of conservation practices and systems that underpin the conservation programs, as well as NRCS collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information on the status and condition of the nation's soil, water and other resources.

NSAC supports the CTA funding level of $923.7 million in the President's FY2011 budget request. We would also support a modest increase in the percentage of Farm Bill mandatory funding that may be used for technical assistance.

RURAL BUSINESS AND COOPERATIVE SERVICE

Value-Added Producer Grants. VAPG offers grants to farmers and ranchers developing new farm and food-related businesses that boost farm income, create jobs and increase rural economic opportunity. As farmers and rural communities face tough economic times, VAPG grants encourage the kind of entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture that enable farms and communities to survive economically. Furthermore, strong interest in farm-to-school and farm-to-hospital programs is generating significantly increased demand for mid-tier value chains and local food enterprises to aggregate local production and make it available in a form usable by cafeterias, exactly the kind of rural development strategy VAPG is designed to support. VAPG is an excellent investment in rural economic recovery. **We request VAPG funding of $30 million in FY 11**.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program. RMAP provides business training, technical assistance and loans to owner-operated businesses with up to ten employees. Small businesses make up 90 percent of all rural businesses, and micro-businesses are the fastest growing segment in many rural areas. With nearly one quarter of rural jobs attributable to micro-enterprises, small business development provides a major economic stimulus opportunity for rural communities. This program is critical to preventing a credit freeze to an essential part of the rural economy. It will help create jobs, attract young people, build assets, create local markets and alleviate poverty. **NSAC supports the USDA request that RMAP be funded at $ 11.7 million, inclusive of $4 million of mandatory farm bill funding.**

GENERAL PROVISIONS – MANDATORY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The cuts proposed in the President's FY 11 budget to the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and other mandatory conservation programs would rob nearly $1 billion from the conservation baseline, or roughly a quarter of the conservation increases gained in the 2008 Farm Bill. These programs lead to critical public benefits and environmental services such as cleaner water, erosion reduction, carbon sinks, energy conservation, improved wildlife habitat and restored wetlands. Farmer demand for these programs exceeds available dollars, a fact the carefully negotiated farm-bill funding package took into account. That deal should not be reversed through backdoor limitations. We note in particular that the proposed cut to the Conservation Stewardship Program would wipe out over six percent of the program, yet yield just $2 million in FY 11 savings, making it the worst possible candidate for a change in mandatory spending. We recognize that an annual cut in EQIP funding has been assumed since before the passage of the last Farm Bill, but beyond this designated amount, **we strongly oppose the proposed one-year and permanent cuts to these critical programs.**

GENERAL PROVISIONS – MARKETING, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH

We strongly support full funding (no changes in mandatory funding) for the **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Outreach and Assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, Farmers' Market Promotion Program**, and **Community Food Grants**.

We encourage you to support the **Regional Innovation Initiative**. The initiative proposes to set aside up to 5% from 20 existing programs for a total of $135 million in budget authority and to allocate these funds competitively among regional pilot projects tailored to local needs and opportunities. These projects would aim to foster regional strategies for activities – such as sustainable renewable energy or local and regional food system development – which can benefit from planning and innovation beyond the normal separate, isolated project-by-project approach. This more coordinated approach is well worth testing.

TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD
ANDREW WETZLER, DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
MARCH 18, 2010

Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. As the Subcommittee considers appropriations for FY 2011, we urge you to pay special attention to funding for Wildlife Services, an agency within the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and, specifically its predator control activities. As described in detail below, we urge the Subcommittee to: (1) request detailed reporting on Wildlife Services' spending on various predator control methods; and (2) limit funding for the use of two unnecessary and hazardous predator poisons by Wildlife Services.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 1.2 million members and online activists nationwide, served from offices in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco, Chicago, Beijing, and Livingston, Montana. NRDC is concerned that Wildlife Services, with its broad discretion over predator control methods and its financial relationships with private interests, tends to overemphasize lethal predator control methods that spend taxpayer dollars ineffectively while creating new costs and problems.

Wildlife Services' predator control activities are primarily focused within its "livestock protection" spending category, whose purpose is to prevent commercial livestock losses from wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, and other wild carnivores. Working directly with commercial operators and state and local governments, Wildlife Services uses a combination of lethal control methods including trapping, aerial gunning, poisoning, and denning (killing young in their dens), and some non-lethal methods to control predators.

Neither the direct nor the indirect costs to taxpayers of Wildlife Services' lethal predator control activities have been effectively and independently assessed. No truly independent cost-benefit analysis of the predator control program has been conducted. Nearly a decade ago, the Government Accountability Office pointed out[i] weaknesses in the studies conducted to date, and the lack of independent studies.

Even Wildlife Services' direct annual spending on lethal predator control is not clear. The structure of Wildlife Services' internal budget, in which predator control activities may be conducted under several different categories (livestock protection, natural resources protection, etc), tends to obscure the full cost of specific predator control methods to taxpayers. Indeed, in response to inquiries, Wildlife Services has told NRDC in writing that "WS Operations does not track annual spending by any single management control technique, approach, or activity."[ii]

Meanwhile, the lethal control methods the program employs have led to as-yet-unevaluated financial, human, and environmental costs. These include dozens of injuries and deaths from aircraft crashes,[iii] poisoned pets[iv] (and even some people), and the degradation of ecosystems that rely on healthy predator populations to function. In some areas their efforts have even led to an increase the reproduction rate of the animals that Wildlife Services is attempting to control.[v]

Also problematic is a lack of transparency in Wildlife Services' financial relationships with the private and state interests it serves. Wildlife Services responds directly to ranchers, county governments, and state fish and game agencies that complain about potential or actual predation, and may allow private associations to pay portions of the salary of their staff. The agency does not require private parties to show they have tried to employ non-lethal, preventative techniques before the killing begins.[vi]

Records of which private operations are assisted by Wildlife Services—and subsidized by taxpayer dollars—and at what level are not made available to the public,[vii] hindering efforts to evaluate program effectiveness as well as efforts by other agencies and non-governmental organizations to proactively address human-wildlife conflicts. For example, in Montana NRDC is working to develop and implement non-lethal, preventative methods for addressing wolf-livestock conflicts. However, the information that Wildlife Services collects about the locations where conflicts are taking place is not made available to the public, limiting our ability to effectively address the problem in the region.

Despite these problems within Wildlife Services Operations, however, Wildlife Services' Methods Development division has a strong focus on nonlethal predator control methods, with 75 percent of its spending devoted to nonlethal methods development and improvement.[viii] We thank the Subcommittee for continuing to fund this important work.

Implementation of predator control methods within Wildlife Services Operations should also emphasize the use of nonlethal methods and be evaluated for effectiveness, especially considering the environmental consequences and human values at stake. We urge the Subcommittee to request from Wildlife Services full reporting by method, species controlled, and land class (private, Federal, state) on its FY 2011 spending on predator control activities, and to consider this information when developing appropriations legislation for FY 2012.

Meanwhile, there is one particular killing method whose known risks are so great and whose use so unnecessary that it should be stopped without delay. We urge the Subcommittee to limit funding for Wildlife Services' use of two deadly predator poisons, Compound 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and sodium cyanide used in M-44 devices.

Compound 1080 is placed into collars strapped onto the necks of sheep or goats that spill the poison when punctured. The substance is so deadly it has been outlawed in two states, is used in only 11 states, and is banned in many other countries. There is no antidote to Compound 1080 exposure, and carcasses contaminated by the substance must be handled as hazardous waste. Death by Compound 1080 is horrific, painful, and lengthy (usually between 3 and 15 hours). Exposure can result in cardiac failure, progressive failure of the central nervous system, or respiratory arrest following severe prolonged convulsions.

Sodium cyanide is placed in spring-loaded devices topped with bait lures, known as M-44s. When an animal tugs on the bait, a spring shoots a pellet of sodium cyanide into the animal's mouth. Most often used to kill coyotes, M-44s are just as likely to kill non-problem animals -- those that haven't attacked livestock -- as "problem" animals. M-44s also kill hundreds of non-target animals each year, including wolves, badgers, bears, bobcats, foxes, dogs, birds, and even people's pets. And, according to EPA records, five Wildlife Services employees and at least five unsuspecting citizens have been exposed to sodium cyanide after triggering devices or coming into contact with poisoned pets.

There is no place for the use of such highly toxic and harmful poisons in the management of wildlife. We urge you to restrict funding for the use of these two poisons by Wildlife Services predator control.

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[i] U.S. Government Accountability Office. 2001. Publication No. GAO-02-138. GAO Reports Main Page via GPO Access, accessed 11 January 2010; available at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gaoreports/index.html

[ii] W. Clay, personal communication, November 24, 2009.

[iii] Sinapu. 2007. Aerial Gunning Crash Report. Accessed 11 January 2010; available at http://www.goagro.org/crash.pdf.

[iv] Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. 2008. "EPA Cites USDA for Wildlife Poison Violations." Press release. Accessed 11 January 2010; available at http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1055

[v] Knowlton, F. F., E. M. Gese, M. M. Jaeger. 1999. Coyote Depredation Control: An Interface between Biology and Management. Journal of Range Management 52: 398-412

[vi] USDA-APHIS. 2009. WS Directive 2.201. Accessed 11 January 2010; available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/directives/directive%202.101.pdf.

[vii] USDA-APHIS. 2008. Idaho Wildlife Services Wolf Activity Report, Fiscal Year 2008. P. I. Accessed 11 January 2010; available at http://rliv.com/wolf/ID%20FY%202008%20Wolf%20Report.pdf/

[viii] W. Clay, personal communication, November 24, 2009.

NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

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BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 101
POST OFFICE BOX 25102
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504-5102

(505)827-6160
FAX:(505)827-6188

March 11, 2010

via e-mail

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro:

Attached herewith is my statement in support of appropriations for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin salinity control program. I appreciate your consideration of this statement and request that it be made part of the hearing record for FY2011 appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. Also, I fully support the statement of Jack Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, submitted to you in support of the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin salinity control program.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Harms of my staff at (505) 827-6126 or e-mail at paul.harms@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

John R. D'Antonio

John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E.
State Engineer and Secretary, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

JRD/ke

Enclosure

cc: (w/enclosure): The Honorable Harry Teague
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Jack Barnett, CRBSCF

Statement of

JOHN R. D'ANTONIO, JR., P.E., NEW MEXICO STATE ENGINEER, AND
SECRETARY, NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

to the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

in support of

FY 2011 Appropriations for ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM
and COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY CONTROL PROGRAM,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 11, 2010

SUMMARY

This Statement is submitted in support of appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (Program). The Program is funded through EQIP, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Basinwide Program, and cost-sharing provided by the Basin States. With the enactment of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act (FSRIA) in 2002, there have been opportunities to adequately fund the EQIP portion of the Program. I request that the Subcommittee designate 2.5%, but no less than $20 million, of the EQIP funds for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. I request that adequate funds be appropriated for technical assistance and education activities directed to salinity control program participants.

STATEMENT

Congress authorized the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974. Congress amended the Act in 1984 to give new responsibilities to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). While retaining the Department of the Interior as the lead coordinator for the Program, the amended Act recognized the importance of USDA efforts in meeting the objectives of the Program. Many of the most cost-effective salinity control projects to date have occurred since implementation of the USDA's authorization for the Program.

Bureau of Reclamation studies show that quantified damages from the Colorado River to United States water users are about $350,000,000 per year. Unquantified damages are significantly greater. Damages are estimated at $75,000,000 per year for every additional increase of 30 milligrams per liter in salinity of the Colorado River. It is essential to the cost-effectiveness of the salinity control program that USDA salinity control projects be funded for timely implementation to protect the quality of Colorado River Basin water delivered to the Lower Basin States and Mexico.

Congress directed, with the enactment the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA), that the Program should continue to be implemented as a component of EQIP. However, until 2004, the Program was not funded at an adequate level to protect the Basin State-adopted and Environmental Protection Agency approved water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River. Appropriations for EQIP prior to 2004 were insufficient to adequately control salinity impacts from water delivered to the downstream states and Mexico.

EQIP subsumed the salinity control program without giving adequate recognition to the responsibilities of the USDA to implement salinity control measures per Section 202 (c) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act. The EQIP evaluation and project ranking criteria targeted small watershed improvements and did not recognize that water users hundreds of miles downstream are significant beneficiaries of the salinity control program. Proposals for EQIP funding were ranked in the states of Utah, Wyoming and Colorado under the direction of the respective State Conservationists without consideration of those downstream, particularly out-of-state, benefits.

Following recommendations of the Basin States to address the funding problem, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designated the Colorado River Basin an "area of special interest" including earmarked funds for the Program. The NRCS concluded that the salinity control program is different from the small watershed approach of EQIP. The watershed for the Program stretches almost 1200 miles from the headwaters of the river through the salt-laden soils of the Upper Basin to the river's termination at the Gulf of California in Mexico. NRCS is to be commended for its efforts to comply with the USDA's responsibilities under the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, as amended. Irrigated agriculture in the Upper Basin realizes significant local benefits of improved irrigation practices, and agricultural producers have succeeded in submitting cost-effective proposals to NRCS.

Years of inadequate federal funding for EQIP since the 1996 enactment of FAIRA and prior to 2004 resulted in the need to accelerate the salinity control program in order to maintain the criteria of the Colorado River Water Quality Standards for Salinity. Since the enactment of FSRIA in 2002, an opportunity to adequately fund the salinity control program now exists. The requested funding of 2.5%, but no less than $20 million, of the EQIP funding will continue to be needed each year for at least the next few fiscal years.

State and local cost-sharing is triggered by and indexed to the federal appropriation. In FY 2011, it is anticipated that the states will cost-share about $8 million and local agricultural producers will add more than $7 million, resulting in contributions for over 40% of the total program costs.

USDA salinity control projects have proven to be a cost-effective component of the salinity control program. USDA has indicated that a more adequately funded EQIP program would result in more funds being allocated to the salinity program. The Basin states have cost-sharing dollars available to participate in on-farm salinity control efforts. The agricultural producers in the Upper Basin are willing to cost-share their portion and are awaiting funding for their applications to be considered.

The Basin states expend 40% of the state funds allocated for the program for essential NRCS technical assistance and education activities. Previously, the federal part of the salinity control program funded through EQIP failed to adequately fund NRCS for these activities, which has been shown to be an impediment to accomplishing successful implementation of the salinity control program. Recent acknowledgement by the Administration that technical assistance and education activities must be better funded has encouraged the Basin states and local producers that cost-share with the EQIP. I request that adequate funds be appropriated to NRCS technical assistance and education activities directed to the salinity control program participants (producers).

I urge the Congress to appropriate at least $1 billion in FY 2011 for EQIP. Also, I request that Congress designate 2.5%, but no less than $20 million, of the EQIP appropriation for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

Oregon Water Resources Congress

1201 Court St. NE, Suite 303 | Salem, OR 97301-4188 | 503-363-0121 | Fax: 503-371-4926 | www.owrc.org

ANITA WINKLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS
March 19, 2010

This testimony is submitted to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies regarding the proposed FY 2011 budget for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on behalf of the Oregon Water Resources Congress by Anita Winkler, Executive Director.

The Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC) was established in 1912 as a trade association to support district member needs to protect water rights and encourage conservation and water management statewide. OWRC represents non-potable agriculture water suppliers in Oregon, primarily irrigation districts, as well as other special districts and local governments that deliver irrigation water. The association represents the entities that operate water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower production.

OWRC is requesting appropriations for the following Department of Agriculture programs for FY 2011:

- $2 Billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program;
- $73 Million for the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program;
- Full funding for Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (set aside of 6% of all conservation programs under Title II, Sub-title D of the Farm Bill);
- $100 Million for Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention as well as watershed planning; and
- $37.5 Million for Conservation Innovation Grant Program.

OWRC and its members believe water conservation is key to the future of irrigation districts and similar organizations that deliver irrigation water for the nation's agriculture. Whether water conservation activities are funded through current programs like the Conservation Security Program (CSP), Conservation Reserve Program (CPR), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or PL 83-566 or through new programs like the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP) or the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), federal support is essential to the conservation of our natural resources and essential to protecting our food, energy and water supply.

AWEP is critical to solving regional watershed problems like those in the Klamath Basin. This program will allow Irrigation Districts to partner with farmers to address regional water quantity and quality issues in local watersheds.

The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.

The CCPI will allow partnerships to be formed with Federal, State and Local interests to address basins and sub basins that are affected by Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) issues.

Water Conservation Funding

OWRC strongly supports the provisions in the Agricultural Watershed Enhancement Program (AWEP) in Title II Conservation of the farm bill. This recognizes the importance of these provisions as part of the partnerships necessary to focus on cooperative approaches on a basin-wide scale. We believe that water supply issues in Oregon and elsewhere in the nation can best be resolved locally in cooperative partnership efforts that promote conservation with a more aggressive federal funding partnership as defined in the AWEP.

Even though Oregon has a reputation as a state with plentiful water, many areas of the state have experienced and continue to experience water shortages and drought conditions. This is not likely to change as the state faces loss of snow pack and glacier storage coupled with expanding population and urbanization.

Currently irrigated agriculture in Oregon has developed partnerships between Federal, State, and Local entities that have proven that conservation can be achieved by leveraging partnerships and focusing on each partner's strengths.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Strengths and Expertise

1. Watershed Planning and Environmental Assessments.

In Oregon NRCS has a Watershed planning team that has an excellent record of success. The use of the Rapid Watershed assessment in the Klamath Basin has helped speed up the process so that on the ground conservation projects can be completed in a timely manner. The rapid watershed assessment has also helped prioritize projects that will bring about the most benefit.

2. Bridging the Headgates MOU

The need for continued coordination among federal agencies, including NRCS, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), is a significant issue. In Oregon, the Bridging the Headgates MOU between NRCS and the Bureau of Reclamation emphasizes technical support from the federal agencies in a comprehensive manner. A recent discussion among OWRC members and staff and staff from these two agencies about coordinating grant requirements and timing highlighted the benefit of having a functional Bridging the Headgates program. Our first request is to reactivate this program between NRCS and Reclamation. Our second request is to expand the MOU.

The existing MOU needs to be expanded to provide similar coordination with the above listed federal agencies.

3. EQIP, AWEP, CCPI and CIG

EQIP has become an essential on-farm conservation program for Irrigation District water users (Farmers).

AWEP & CCPI help fill a void for multi partnered conservation projects. So often a large conservation project will not include the on farm projects. AWEP & CCPI allow farmers to pool together and leverage the dollars invested in the off farm project with the addition of EQIP on farm projects. Because of the large number of successful project applications for AWEP, USDA will have to obligate a large amount of the annual $73 million appropriation to existing multi year projects. It is important that the funding for these projects not be interrupted so that they may be completed. Additionally important is new funding for a new AWEP RFP in 2010 for FY 2011 appropriations.

Examples of Successful Projects in Oregon

Bridging the Headgates

Oregon districts have been working on cooperative conservation partnerships in river basins and watersheds, but work has been limited by partnership funding. Currently in the Deschutes Basin, for example, there is a project that has been cooperatively designed by the Bureau of Reclamation under the Bridging the Headgates agreement with NRCS. The completed pipeline project will return 6 cfs (cubic feet per second) to a stream that will support reintroduction of listed summer steelhead and Chinook salmon. The project will also deliver more water on farm as well as conserve 3 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Each farmer who receives water from this project has committed to do on-farm conservation improvements through the EQIP program. This project is an example of what a cooperative conservation project could look like in partnership between an irrigation district and its farmer members with the funding support the AWEP program could provide. Other projects in the Deschutes Basin have the potential to firm up water supply while providing an additional 70 cfs instream for water quality and fishery benefit, if funding becomes available. Similar examples exist in all of the 20 water basins statewide.

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) CIG Grant

FCA received $530,000 over 3 years in the form of a CIG grant from NRCS. This grant funding has allowed FCA to develop a system to take the Farmers Fish Screen to market. The Farmers Screen is a technology that allows irrigators to efficiently direct water while protecting fish including ESA species.

The development and market transfer for new technologies that are highly regulated by State and Federal agencies is difficult, lengthy, and very costly. Because of this, new technologies that work for both fish and wildlife, and agriculture are rare. Funding sources like the CIG are crucial for organizations like FCA to succeed in developing mutually beneficial technologies. Resource solutions that address concerns from both the regulatory/resource protection perceptive and the agriculture community perspective are key to long term success for everyone.

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
Oregon had 8 successful AWEP applicants for the FY 2009 grant program, three from our member districts (described below). The full list of Oregon projects can be found on the Oregon NRCS website, http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/awep/index.html.

- **The Dalles Irrigation District Project** in Wasco County will offer financial and technical assistance to adopt intensive scientific irrigation scheduling practices to conserve water, save energy and improve water quality on orchards irrigated through the project partner, The Dalles Irrigation District.
  FY 2009 Funding: $189,437

- The **McKenzie Canyon Irrigation Project** focuses on irrigation water efficiency with irrigation improvements in the Lower Division of the Three Sisters Irrigation District, which is the project partner. The effort will improve stream flows and water quality for native fish while providing farmers a reliable supply of water.
  FY 2009 Funding: $727,830

- The **Willow Creek Project** will help landowners in the Lower Willow Creek Watershed portion of Malheur County convert to water-saving irrigation systems, reduce irrigation runoff, and improve water quality in Willow Creek and Malheur River. The project partner is the Vale Oregon Irrigation District.
  FY 2009 Funding: $300,000

Our member districts and the irrigators they serve would be well served by the programs described above. Oregon's agriculture will benefit from water conservation programs, but those programs require Federal participation if the agricultural community is to be able to continue its efforts to address Oregon's water supply needs through water conservation. Achieving water and energy conservation, in addition to providing water quality benefits, is one more tool to meet water demands and combat our long-term problem of climate change resulting from global warming impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for the record on the proposed FY 2011 budget for the US Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Anita Winkler

Anita Winkler
Executive Director

Written Testimony of the Organic Farming Research Foundation
By Mark Lipson,[1] Senior Policy Analyst, and Ariane Lotti, Policy Associate

Submitted to the
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
March 19, 2010

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is a national farmer-directed, non-profit organization fostering the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems. The multiple benefits of organic production and market systems make organic agriculture a highly cost-effective investment for achieving national economic and environmental goals.

OFRF's funding requests for Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill emphasize research, data collection, and information dissemination. These are all significant limiting factors for the growth and improvement of organic agriculture. Our requests represent continued progress towards achieving the "fair-share" benchmark for organic agriculture within the USDA-REE mission area. The fair-share benchmark compares the U.S. retail market share of organic products to the percentage of USDA-REE spending on activities explicitly directed towards organic agriculture. Organic represents 3.5% of the U.S. retail market share, but, according to OFRF estimates,[2] explicit organic research represents only 1.8% of the USDA-REE mission area budget. We present below a summary of our requests followed by more justifications.

USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

FY 10 Actual:	no limit on mandatory funding
USDA FY 11 Request:	no limit on mandatory funding
OFRF FY 11 Request:	no limit on mandatory funding plus $10 M in discretionary funds

Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program

FY 10 Actual:	$5.0 M
USDA FY 11 Request:	$0
OFRF FY 11 Request:	$5.0 M

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

FY 10 Actual:	$14.5 M (research and education) + $4.7 M (extension) = $19.2 M
USDA FY 11 Request:	$15.0 M + $5.0 M + $10.0 M (State Matching Grants) = $30.0 M
OFRF FY 11 Request:	$15.0 M + $5.0 M + $10.0 M = $30.0 M

USDA – Agricultural Research Service

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[1] DC Office: 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 209, Washington, DC 20002, 202-547-5754; CA Office: P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0440, 831-426-6606. Emails: mark@ofrf.org, ariane@ofrf.org

[2] OFRF estimates total FY 10 organic REE spending at approximately $51 million out of approximately $2.9 billion for the REE mission area. This includes: OREI ($20 million), ORG ($5 million), ARS direct organic ($17 million), ODI ($1 million), and other NIFA grants ($8 million).

Direct Organic Projects (allocation within agency baseline)

FY 10 Actual: $17.2 M
USDA FY 11 Request: N/A
OFRF FY 11 Request: $42 M (approximate result of requested "fair-share" language)

Classical Plant and Animal Breeding Activities

FY 10 Actual: N/A
USDA FY 11 Request: $9.0 M
OFRF FY 11 Request: $9.0 M

National Agricultural Library

FY 10 Actual: N/A
USDA FY 11 Request: Increase of $1.5 M for sustainability information framework
OFRF FY 11 Request: Increase of $1.5 M for sustainability information framework

USDA – AMS/ERS/NASS

Organic Market and Production Data Initiatives

FY 10 Actual: $0.75 M ($0.5 M for ERS, $0.250 M for NASS)
USDA FY 11 Request: $0.8 M ($0.3 M for AMS, $0.5 M for NASS)
OFRF FY 11 Request: $5.0 M ($3.0 M for AMS, $1.5 M for ERS, $0.5 M for NASS)

USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program

FY 10 Actual: $7.0 M
USDA FY 11 Request: $10.1 M
OFRF FY 11 Request: $10.1 M

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mandatory Conservation Programs

FY 10 Actual: $270 M cut to Environmental Quality Incentives Program
USDA FY 11 Request: cuts to several mandatory conservation programs
OFRF FY 11 Request: no limit on mandatory funding

Conservation Technical Assistance

FY 10 Actual: $887.6 M
USDA FY 11 Request: $923.7 M
OFRF FY 11 Request: $923.7 M

Justifications

USDA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Organic agriculture provides multiple benefits to society, and has the potential to help achieve important agricultural outcomes. These outcomes include providing a nutritious and safe food supply, protecting and enhancing natural resources, building a prosperous agricultural economy, and adapting to climate change.

These multiple benefits can only be realized with a strong commitment to research. Congress created and has funded the dedicated organic research programs to improve organic systems and leverage their multiple benefits. However, Congress has also made clear that these programs should not be the only source for scientific improvement of organic agriculture. Continued growth of the dedicated funding streams is necessary to build sufficient capacity for organic research and extension. This increased capacity in turn will allow for organic research to be competitive within other grant programs. Additionally, the organic research programs address significant, specific research needs not addressed by any of the other competitive research grant programs at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

OFRF FY 11 Request: no limit on mandatory funding plus $10 M in discretionary funds

OREI is USDA's flagship competitive research and education grant program specifically dedicated to the investigation of organic agriculture and the delivery of its outcomes. The program is consistently oversubscribed and in FY 09 could only fund 17% of the funds requested. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized $25 million annually in discretionary funds. In addition to the $20 million in mandatory funding available in FY 11, OFRF requests $10 million of the $25 million in discretionary authority in FY 11. Protecting and growing the funding for this program would continue to make progress towards the fair-share benchmark for USDA funding for organic research and extension, would help respond to the strong demand for the program, and would increase the capacities of University organic programs to utilize other competitive research funds.

Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program (ORG)

OFRF FY 11 Request: $5.0 M

ORG is the smaller and older of the two USDA competitive grant programs dedicated to organic research and education. From 2003 to 2008, it was administered together with OREI. Starting in FY 09, NIFA has been combining the program with 406 Integrated Water Quality research program. The newly combined program funds multi-year projects that examine the effects of organic production systems on water quality. This approach provides a "specialized" complement to the general purposes of OREI, and OFRF supports this move by the agency. Additionally, ORG supports formal educational activities (e.g., curriculum development for colleges), which OREI does not fund.

The President's FY 11 budget eliminates funding for ORG along with funding for all of the other Section 406 integrated programs, and justifies the cuts by saying that those research objectives will be met through other competitive research grants programs such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Given the type of research that AFRI/NRI has funded in the past and the proposed changes forthcoming in this year's Request for Applications, we doubt that AFRI will support serious investigations into organic systems similar to those currently funded through ORG. The past Administration made similar recommendations on the 406 programs, which Congress consistently rejected. We urge the Subcommittee to again reject these cuts and keep ORG level funded at $5 million in FY 11.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)

OFRF FY 11 Request: $15.0 M (research & education) + $5.0 M (extension) + $10.0 M (federal-state matching grants program) = $30.0 M

We strongly support the President's FY 11 request of $30 million for SARE, which includes $10 million to launch a federal-state matching grants program to leverage non-federal funds to support sustainable agriculture research. SARE is a farmer-driven, regionally-led, and outcomes-oriented competitive research and extension grants program that complements the activities of dedicated organic research programs.

USDA – Agricultural Research Service

Direct Organic Projects

OFRF FY 11 Request: Report language resulting in "fair-share" expenditures (appx. $42 M)

USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has an organic research portfolio and a work plan to guide further organic research objectives. The current total for direct organic projects is $17.2 million, about 1.3% of the ARS budget. To strengthen the agency's organic portfolio and reach the ARS fair-share benchmark, we request report language directing the Secretary of Agriculture to use a share of the ARS budget for research specific to organic food and agricultural systems that is at least commensurate with the organic sector's retail market share (currently 3.5%).

Classical Plant and Animal Breeding Activities

OFRF FY 11 Request: $9.0 M

The President's FY 11 budget requests an increase of $4.289 million for "crop breeding to enhance food and production security" and another $4.75 million for "crop protection to enhance food and production security," with a clear focus on classical plant and animal breeding activities. In recent decades, there has been a significant decrease in the public resources supporting classical plant and animal breeding, and the nation's capacity for public breeding is now at a crisis point. We fully support this request for much-needed classical breeding activities conducted through ARS.

National Agricultural Library (NAL)

OFRF FY 11 Request: Increase of $1.5 M for sustainability information framework

We strongly support the President's FY 11 request for an increase of $1.5 million for NAL to develop a framework for information access and databases focused on sustainable agricultural practices and systems.

USDA – AMS/ERS/NASS

Organic Market and Production Data Initiatives

OFRF FY 11 Request: $5.0 M ($3.0 M for AMS, $1.5 M for ERS, $0.5 M for NASS)

Data on prices, yields, and markets are vital to farmers for production planning, market development, risk management, and obtaining financial credit. The organic sector is still without vital comprehensive data on par with what USDA provides for conventional agriculture, putting organic farmers at a significant disadvantage. The absence of marketing and production data specific to organic agriculture inhibits organic producers and handlers, and limits the effectiveness of policies enacted to facilitate the public benefits of organic agriculture.

Activities of AMS, ERS, and NASS require continued full support to build upon the previous investments. AMS has planned further enhancement of organic reporting and the development of additional organic market information tools. NASS released its first-ever organic agriculture production survey in February, and will need funds to develop cross tabs and conduct further analysis. ERS will need additional targeted funds to continue expanding the agency's overall program of research and analysis of organic agriculture, and will work jointly with NASS to analyze the data from the organic production survey.

The 2008 Farm Bill provided $5 million in mandatory funds for ODI and additional authority up to $5 million annually for ODI. Those mandatory funds have been applied to important projects, but there is still an increasing backlog of information needs. We are asking the Subcommittee to exercise its full authority and allocate $5 million for FY 11 to organic data collection, distributed among the three agencies leading this initiative.

USDA – Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program

OFRF FY 11 Request: $10.1 M

We support the President's FY 11 request of $10.1 million for NOP. This budget request will help protect the integrity of the organic label, allow for proper enforcement of the national organic standards, and restore consumer confidence in the organic label.

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mandatory Conservation Programs

OFRF FY 11 Request: no limit on mandatory funding

The cuts proposed in the President's FY 11 budget to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and other conservation programs would rob over $1 billion from the conservation baseline, or nearly a quarter of the conservation increases in the 2008 Farm Bill. These programs lead to cleaner water, erosion reduction, carbon sinks, improved wildlife habitat, and other essential environmental services.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

OFRF FY 11 Request: $923.7 M

We strongly support the President's full request for CTA, which is funded through yearly appropriations for NRCS to provide conservation technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. CTA also funds assessment of conservation practices and systems that underpin the conservation programs, as well as NRCS collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information on the status and condition of the nation's soil, water and other resources. This information is used by farmers and by federal, state and private natural resource managers who are charged with managing and protecting natural resources.

Disclosure: Organic Farming Research Foundation was a subcontractor for a grant awarded by the USDA-CSREES Integrated Organic Program. Grant # 2207-01384. "Midwest Organic Research Symposium." Application submitted to OREI FY 2010 round and currently under consideration.

Organic trade association SINCE 1985

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Statement of
Christine Bushway, Executive Director & CEO
Organic Trade Association
Greenfield, Massachusetts
(www.ota.com)

Before the United States House of Representatives
Appropriation Committee's
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee

March 19, 2010

Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am Christine Bushway, Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association (OTA). The organic agricultural economy continues to be one of the fastest-growing sectors of American agriculture, with retail sales increasing by approximately 14 to 20% each year since 1990. U.S. organic product sales totaled $26 billion in 2009, with organic food sales reaching $24.2 billion to represent 3% of the domestic food market. In addition, exports of U.S. organic products were over $1 billion in 2009. To help continue this growth, we respectfully request the following funding levels for programs pertinent to the organic industry: USDA- National Organic Program- $10.1 million; USDA- Organic Data Initiative- $5 million; USDA- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative- $35 million; USDA- Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program- $5 million; USDA- Agricultural Research Service- $9.03 million; and National Center for Appropriate Technology- Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas- $3 million.

The Organic Trade Association is the membership-based business association for organic agriculture and products in North America. Its members include growers, shippers, processors, certifiers, farmers' associations, distributors, importers, exporters, consultants, retailers and others. OTA's Board of Directors is democratically elected by its members. OTA's mission is to promote and protect the growth of organic trade to benefit the environment, farmers, the public and the economy.

National Organic Program

OTA supports the President's request of $10.1 million for the National Organic Program (NOP). This supports Congress's intent to enhance NOP as expressed through the 2008 Farm Bill, as well as supporting current NOP projections. USDA's *2007 Census of Agriculture*: *Organic Production Survey* reported more than 14,540 farms engaged in organic agriculture productions. OTA's *2010 Organic Industry Survey* shows organic food sales have grown from $3.6 billion in 1997 to $24.2 billion in 2009, with a 2009 growth rate of over 5% despite the recession.

NOP performs regulatory oversight over organic agriculture. Recognizing continued growth of the industry, the President's Budget asks for $0.6 million more than the 2008 Farm Bill authorized for FY 2011 ($9.5 million). OTA strongly supports this additional request.

Headquarters: 60 Wells St, Greenfield, MA 01301 USA • (413) 774-7511 • Fax: (413) 774-6432 • www.ota.com
Washington, D.C.: The Hall of the States, 444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 638, Washington, D.C. 20001 USA • (202) 403-8510
Canada: PO Box 6364, Sackville, NB, E4L 1G6 Canada • East: (613) 482-1717 • West: (250) 335-3423 • www.ota-canada.ca

The $3.1 million increase over FY 2010 provides $2.1 million for regulatory review, enforcement, and development of equivalency agreements. Another $1 million is included to assist accredited certifying agents with training costs to enhance compliance with program regulations. Each of these areas is critical to the integrity of the program.

Provisions for organic agriculture in the 2008 Farm Bill have already resulted in better compliance with and enforcement of NOP standards, an improved appeals process, a final pasture rule and an organic equivalency agreement between the U.S. and Canada. These milestones would not have been possible without support from Congress to expand NOP staff from 14 in FY 2008 to 31 in FY 2010, with a total staff of 40 expected in FY 2011.

USDA recently proclaimed that the organic industry has entered an "Age of Enforcement" of organic standards. OTA supports this call to action, and asks Congress to provide the necessary resources for NOP staff to continue work on the following priorities:

Compliance and enforcement is fundamental to the integrity of the organic seal, and long-term health of the industry. The additional funds allow for full implementation of appeals decisions, including monitoring of final actions through having at least one audit over the following year, or six months for cease-and-desist, suspension or revocation adverse actions, reducing the backlog from previous years, and improving compliance resolution time, which averages 75 days.

Accreditation and training of certifying agents is necessary for consistent application of the standards in the field, and is a critical precursor to compliance and enforcement. The additional funds allow for improved qualifications and training of inspectors and auditors and create an up-to-date database of certified operations.

Development of equivalence agreements reduces and eliminates trade barriers for American organic producers who want to develop export markets. Over 70%[1] of organic companies surveyed currently export, or plan to export, good in the next few years. Currently organic exports are estimated to total $1 to $1.5 billion annually, creating between 6,000 and 9,000 jobs.[2] Requested funds allow for negotiations with the European Union on organic equivalence. Success in this negotiation would open up the world's largest market to U.S. organic exports.

Funding NOP at the requested $10.1 million will provide the resources needed to maintain the integrity of the organic label that both domestic and international consumers place their trust in and help to ensure the continued growth of the organic industry. It will give NOP the ability to deliver the improvements needed to address recommendations outlined in the March 18 release of USDA's Office of Inspector General NOP audit report (http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/01601-03-HY.pdf).

Organic Data Initiative
OTA supports fully funding the Organic Data Initiative (ODI) at $5 million as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. ODI collects and disseminates data regarding organic agriculture through the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National

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[1] *Organic Trade Association's 2009 Organic Industry Survey*. May, 2009. Page 19.
[2] "Every $1 billion increase in exports supports more than 6,000 additional jobs". Remarks by President Obama at the Export-Import Bank's Annual Conference. March 11, 2010.

Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This program has been highly successful in providing valuable information to Congress, government agencies and the organic industry at a low cost.

AMS collects organic prices and disseminates the data through Market News Reports, which give producers and buyers knowledge of farm-gate selling prices for several organic commodities, helping to create a more stable organic market. This is an excellent first step, but organic pricing information falls far behind what is available to conventional agriculture. Organic producers currently only receive farm-gate prices for a limited number of commodities, while conventional producers receive farm-gate, terminal and retail price information for many commodities in all regions of the country. Organic producers, processors and retailers need this information to maintain a stable organic market. We request $3 million for AMS to continue and expand organic price reporting services in FY 2011.

NASS provides surveys based on *Census of Agriculture* data. In February 2010, NASS released the *Organic Production Survey (2008)*, the first to provide a state-by-state collection of the amount of farmland used for organic production and gross farm sales of organic products. Such information has been provided for conventional production, and should continue to be funded for organic production. OTA requests that NASS receive $0.5 million in FY 2011, as requested in the President's Budget, to continue collecting and distributing organic agriculture statistics.

ERS published the consumer survey *Marketing U.S. Organic Foods: Recent Trends from Farms to Consumers (2009)*, and multiple other reports that used data collected by AMS and NASS in addition to surveying Americans about their organic consumption patterns. The reports provided valuable information regarding the growth of and trends in the organic industry.

ERS also plans to broaden its current research agenda to include economic analysis of international trade of organic products. In order to conduct sound economic research, data collected must be statistically reliable and of high quality. OTA hopes the International Trade Commission will expand the Harmonized System Codes (HS Codes) for organic products. With more than 70% of certified organic producers and handlers exporting or planning to export[1], these codes are needed to expand and simplify the trade of organic products. OTA requests that ERS be funded at $1.5 million in FY 2011 for continued organic economic analysis and inclusion of organic trade data.

Unfortunately, the President's Budget only includes $0.3 million for AMS organic price collection and $0.5 million for NASS to conduct production surveys for organic agriculture, with no provision for funds for ERS to study organic data. Congress expressed its intention for comprehensive data collection and analyses in the 2008 Farm Bill by mandating $5 million to start ODI the first year, then authorizing $5 million in discretionary funds for each year following. Fully funding ODI at $5 million will help provide critical data necessary for any agricultural sector to survive, and help increase organic exports.

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative

OTA requests $35 million to fund the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI), USDA's flagship competitive research and education grant program specifically dedicated to the investigation of organic agriculture and the delivery of its outcomes. OREI provides grants for a myriad of research projects that improve organic agriculture. The program is consistently oversubscribed and could only fund 17% of the funds requested in FY 2009.

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[1] *Organic Trade Association's 2009 Organic Industry Survey*. May, 2009. Page 19.

Funds are given to land grant universities, for-profit organizations, individuals, private universities and state agricultural experiment stations to conduct organic research. Projects funded through OREI include improving organic farming systems and assessing their environmental impacts across agroeco-regions, enhancing productivity and soil borne disease control in intensive organic vegetable production, and improving weed and insect management.

This request includes $20 million in mandatory funding plus $15 million out of an authorized $25 million of discretionary funds in the 2008 Farm Bill. We request $15 million in discretionary funding because the President's Budget folds the Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program (below) into the Agriculture and Food Research Institute. If this occurs, less money will be appropriated specifically for organic research. If the Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program continues to receive funding, we will reduce OTA's request for OREI to $30 million.

OREI projects have contributed to the health and sustainability of the environment and organic agriculture. Funding OREI at $35 million will support continued organic research by educational, state, and private institutions.

Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program

OTA requests $5 million to fund the Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program (ORG) in FY 2011. Authorized by Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, ORG provides funding for research grants that specifically study the relationship between organic agriculture and improving critical water quality problems. This program consistently receives many more funding requests than it can accommodate.

The President's FY 2011 Budget cuts ORG as a separate program, and merges its responsibilities into the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. We oppose merging the programs because the funds needed to continue this important grant program will be forced to compete with multiple proposals from all agriculture sectors instead of having dedicated resources. As organic retail sales have grown to 3.5% of retail agriculture sales, research funding provided to organic agriculture has only reached and estimated 1.76% as of FY 2009.[1] Ending ORG as an organic specific research grant program will likely increase this gap.

ORG grants have funded several projects that have led to a better understanding of the link between agriculture and water quality, with more worthy proposals waiting for resources. The project should be funded at $5 million to continue and grow this important research. If ORG is not funded separately at $5 million, we request an increase in the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (see OREI request) to continue supporting this research.

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[1] Estimate based on $2.9 billion USDA's Research, Education and Economics Mission FY2011 funding request and FY 2010 funding of Organic Data Initiative, Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, Organic Transitions Integrated Research Program, Agriculture Research Service and other National Institute of Food and Agriculture requests.

Agriculture Research Service
OTA supports the ARS request for $9.03 million in additional funds to study classical plant and animal breeding. Public resources for classical plant and animal breeding have dwindled in recent decades, while resources have shifted toward genomics and biotechnology, with a focus on a limited set of major crops and breeds. This problem has been particularly acute for organic and sustainable farmers, who seek access to germplasm well suited to their unique cropping systems and their local environment. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Report has registered the Committee's concern about this problem every year since FY 2005, in the context of the CSREES (now the National Institute of Food and Agriculture) section of the Report.

While USDA's statutory obligation to address this problem through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative competitive grant program remains a strong need, USDA's ARS also has an obligation in this regard. ARS has the resources and expertise to help reverse this dangerous trend, but the agency has not made a concerted effort until now. The Administration's FY 2011 budget requests an increase of $4.289 million for "crop breeding to enhance food and production security" and another $4.75 million for "crop protection to enhance food and production security," with a clear focus on classical plant and animal breeding activities.

Research on breeding stocks for organic and sustainable agriculture has not kept pace with the rate at which the organic industry has grown. Providing ARS with the requested $9.03 million to study classical plant and animal breeding will help to overcome this lack of needed research.

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas
We request $3 million to fund Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA), as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. The (ATTRA) project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is a very helpful resource for both beginning and advanced organic farmers. It has been funded by Congress for many years and continues to develop resources, including organic system plan templates and technical sheets on organic production. ATTRA reports that 30% of the calls received are in regards to organic practices.

ATTRA helps thousands of organic and conventional farmers across the country. A sampling of topics that are routinely asked about are: reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides; employing farm practices that help protect air, water, and soil resources; reducing energy and water use; developing new marketing opportunities by focusing on local foods, farm-to-school, and farmers markets; and creating rural jobs by encouraging farming. OTA and NOP refer callers seeking technical information to ATTRA on a regular basis, whose toll-free number and bilingual capacity make it a national information resource. Funding ATTRA at $3 million will enable its work to provide valuable information to both organic and conventional farmers.

Conclusion
Organic agriculture gives farmers more opportunities, improves and conserves the condition of the environment and gives consumers the choice to buy foods and other products that are produced to organic standards. Meeting these funding requests will help to insure the continued growth of U.S. organic agriculture by supporting the integrity of the organic label, providing important data and continuing to support research for organic agriculture.

I thank the Committee and look forward to working with you to advance the organic industry.

Pickle Packers International, Inc.
1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 925
Washington, D.C. 20006

Statement of Concern for Sustained and Increased Research Funding USDA/Agricultural Research Service

Summary

Sustained and increased funding is desperately needed to maintain the research momentum built over recent years and to defray rising fixed costs at laboratory facilities. Companies in the pickled vegetable industry generously participate in funding and performing short-term research, but the expense for long-term research needed to insure future competitiveness is too great for individual companies to shoulder on their own.

Budget Requests for FY 2011

Funding needs for four USDA/ARS laboratories are as follows:

I. Requests for Restoration of Funds not in the Presidential Budget

$9,200,000	U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina [Note: These funds are for the design ($700,000) and construction ($8,500,000) of the final phases of the planned greenhouse complex.]
$9,200,000	**Total Restoration Requests**

II. Requests for Program Enhancement – Pickled Vegetables

$500,000	**Emerging Disease of Crops (HS)**
$300,000	**Quality and Utilization of Agricultural Products & Food Safety (HS)**
$270,400	**Applied Crop Genomics**
$550,000	**Specialty Crops**
$1,620,400	**Total Program Enhancements Requested – Pickled Vegetables**

USDA/ARS Research Provides:

- Consumers with over 150 safe and healthful vegetable varieties providing vitamins A, C, folate, magnesium, potassium, calcium, and phytonutrients such as antioxidant carotenoids and anthocyanins.
- Genetic resistance for many major vegetable diseases, assuring sustainable crop production with reduced pesticide residues – valued at nearly $1 billion per year in increased crop production.
- Classical plant breeding methods combined with bio-technological tools, such as DNA marker-assisted selection and genome maps.
- New vegetable products with economic opportunities amidst increasing foreign competition.
- Improved varieties suitable for machine harvesting, assuring post harvest quality and marketability.
- Fermentation and acidification processing techniques to improve the efficiency of energy use while continuing to assure safety and quality of our products.
- Methods for delivering living pro-biotic microorganisms in fermented or acidified vegetables.
- New technology and systems for rapid inspection, sorting and grading of pickling vegetable products.

Health and Economical Benefits

- Health agencies continue to encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, useful in preventing heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and obesity.
- Vegetable crops, including cucumbers, peppers, carrots, onions, garlic and cabbage (sauerkraut), are considered “specialty” crops and not part of commodity programs supported by taxpayer subsidies.
- Current farm value for just cucumbers, onions and garlic is estimated at $2.4 billion with a processed value of $5.8 billion. These vegetables are grown and/or manufactured in all 50 states.

Thank you for your consideration and expression of support for the USDA/ARS.

Pickle Packers International, Inc.

"Serving the pickled vegetable industry for over 100 years"

A Statement of Concern for Sustained and Increased Research Funding USDA/Agricultural Research Service

Food Fermentation Laboratory, USDA/ARS
Department of Food, Bioprocessing & Nutrition Sciences
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina
Research Leader, Dr. Roger McFeeters

Vegetable Crops Research Lab, USDA/ARS
Department of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
Research Leader, Dr. Philipp Simon

US Vegetable Laboratory, USDA/ARS
Charleston, South Carolina
Research Leader, Dr. Richard Fery

Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, USDA/ARS
East Lansing, Michigan
Research Leader, Dr. Renfu Lu

The pickled vegetable industry strongly supports and encourages your committee in its work of maintaining and guiding the Agricultural Research Service. To accomplish the goal of improved health and quality of life for the American people, the health action agencies of this country continue to encourage increased consumption of fruits and vegetables in our diets. Accumulating evidence from the epidemiology and biochemistry of heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity supports this policy. Vitamins (particularly A, C, and folic acid), minerals, and a variety of antioxidant phytochemicals in plant foods are thought to be the basis for correlation's between high fruit and vegetable consumption and reduced incidence of these debilitating and deadly diseases. The problem is that many Americans choose not to consume the variety and quantities of fruits and vegetables that are needed for better health.

As an association representing processors that produce over 85 percent of the tonnage of pickled vegetables in North America, it is our goal to produce new products that increase the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture as well as meet the demands of an increasingly diverse U.S. population that is encouraged to eat more vegetables. The profit margins of growers continue to be narrowed by foreign competition. Likewise, the people of this country represent an ever-broadening array of expectations, tastes and preferences derived from many cultural backgrounds. Everyone, however, faces the common dilemma that food costs should remain stable and preparation time continues to be squeezed by the other demands of life. This industry can grow by meeting these expectations and demands with reasonably priced products of good texture and flavor that are high in nutritional value, low in negative environmental impacts, and produced with assured safety from pathogenic microorganisms and from those who would use food as a vehicle for terror. With strong research to back us up, we believe our industry can make a greater contribution toward reducing product costs and improving human diets and health for all economic strata of U.S. society.

Many small to medium sized growers and processing operations are involved in the pickled vegetable industry. We grow and process a group of vegetable crops, including cucumbers, peppers, carrots, onions, garlic, cauliflower, cabbage (Sauerkraut) and Brussels sprouts, which are referred to as 'minor' crops. None of these crops is in any "commodity program" and as such, do not rely upon taxpayer subsidies. However, **current farm value for just cucumbers, onions and garlic is $2.4 billion with an estimated processed value of $5.8 billion.** These crops represent important sources of income to farmers, and the processing operations are important employers in rural communities around the United States. Growers, processing plant employees and employees of suppliers to this industry reside in all 50 states. To realize its potential in the rapidly changing American economy, this industry will rely upon a growing stream of appropriately directed basic and applied research from four important research programs within the Agricultural Research Service. **These programs contribute directly to top research priorities that the Research, Education, and Economics Mission Area (REE) of the USDA has identified in that they develop vegetable crop germplasm and preservation technology that contributes to improved profitability with reduced pesticide inputs in a safer, higher quality product grown by rural farm communities across the U.S., consequently improving food security and food safety. Improved germplasm, crop management practices and processing technologies from these projects have measurably contributed to the profitability, improved nutritional value and increased consumption of affordable vegetable crops for children and adults in America and around the world.**

Vegetable Crops Research Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin

The USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Lab at the University of Wisconsin is the only USDA research unit dedicated to the genetic improvement of cucumbers, carrots, onions and garlic. Three scientists in this unit account for approximately half of the total U.S. public breeding and genetics research on these crops. Their past efforts have yielded cucumber, carrot and onion cultivars and breeding stocks that are widely used by the U.S. vegetable industry (i.e., growers, processors, and seed companies). These varieties account for over half of the farm yield produced by these crops today. All U.S. seed companies rely upon this program for developing new varieties, because ARS programs seek to introduce economically important traits (e.g., virus and nematode resistance) not available in commercial varieties using long-term high risk research efforts. The U.S. vegetable seed industry develops new varieties of cucumbers, carrots, onions, and garlic and over twenty other vegetables used by thousands of vegetable growers. **The U.S. vegetable seed, grower, and processing industry, relies upon the USDA/ARS Vegetable Crops Research Lab for unique genetic stocks to improve varieties** in the same way the U.S. health care and pharmaceutical industries depend on fundamental research from the National Institutes of Health. Their innovations meet long-term needs and bring innovations in these crops for the U.S. and export markets, for which the U.S. has successfully competed. Past accomplishments by this USDA group have been cornerstones for the U. S. vegetable industry that have resulted in increased profitability, and improved product nutrition and quality.

Both consumers and the vegetable production and processing industry would like to see fewer pesticides applied to food and into the environment in a cost-effective manner. **Scientists in this unit have developed genetic resistance for many major vegetable diseases that are perhaps the most important threat to sustained production of a marketable crop for all vegetables.** Genetic resistance assures sustainable crop production for growers and reduces pesticide residues in our food and environment. Value of this genetic resistance developed by the vegetable crops unit is estimated at $670 million per year in increased crop production, not to mention environmental benefits due to reduction in pesticide use. New research in Madison has resulted in cucumbers with improved disease resistance, pickling quality and suitability for machine harvesting. New sources of genetic resistance to viral and fungal diseases, environmental stress resistance like heat and cold, and higher yield have recently been mapped on cucumber chromosomes to provide a ready tool for our seed industry to significantly accelerate the development of resistant cultivars for U.S. growers. Nematodes in the soil deform carrot roots to reduce yield from 10% to over 70% in major production areas. A new genetic resistance to nematode attack was found to almost completely protect the carrot crop from one major nematode. This group improved both consumer quality and processing quality of vegetables with a resulting increase in production efficiency and consumer appeal. Baby carrots were founded on germplasm developed in Madison, Wisconsin. Carrots provide approximately 30% of the U.S. dietary vitamin A. **New carrots have been developed with tripled nutritional value, and nutrient-rich cucumbers have been developed with increased levels of provitamin A.** Using new biotechnological methods, a system for rapidly and simply identifying seed production ability in onions has been developed that reduces the breeding process up to 6 years! A genetic map of onion flavor and nutrition will be used to develop onions that are more appealing and healthy for consumers.

There are still serious vegetable production problems which need attention. For example, losses of cucumbers, onions, and carrots in the field due to **attack by pathogens and pests remains high, nutritional quality needs to be significantly improved and U.S. production value and export markets could certainly be enhanced.** Genetic improvement of all the attributes of these valuable crops are at hand through the unique USDA lines and populations (i.e., germplasm) that are available and the new biotechnological methodologies that are being developed by the group. The achievement of these goals will involve the utilization of a wide range of biological diversity available in the germplasm collections for these crops. **Classical plant breeding methods combined with bio-technological tools such as DNA marker-assisted selection and genome maps of cucumber, carrot and onion** will be used to implement these genetic improvements. With this, new high-value vegetable products based upon genetic improvements developed by our USDA laboratories can offer vegetable processors and growers expanded economic opportunities for U.S. and export markets.

U.S. Food Fermentation Laboratory, Raleigh, North Carolina

The USDA/ARS Food Fermentation Laboratory in Raleigh, NC is the major public laboratory that this industry looks to as a source for new scientific information on the safety of our products and development of new processing technologies related to fermented and acidified vegetables. Over the years, this laboratory has been a source for innovations which have helped this industry remain competitive in the current global trade environment. We expect the research done in this laboratory to lead to new processing and product ideas that will increase the economic value of this industry and provide consumers with safe, high quality, healthful vegetable products.

We seek additional funding to support two new research initiatives for this laboratory that have substantial economic potential for our industry and health benefits for the American public. **These are: (1) New approaches for pasteurization and application of microwave heat processing to acidified foods to achieve major improvements in the efficiency of energy utilization and reduction in water use while assuring safety and quality of products that require thermal processing; (2) development of techniques to deliver living pro-biotic microorganisms to consumers in fermented or acidified vegetable products.**

Nearly all pickled vegetables in the aisles of your super market are heated (pasteurized) so they are shelf stable at room temperature. Current steam and water bath pasteurizer technologies, which were developed in the 1940s and 50s, have been very successful in that there as never been an outbreak of illness caused by commercially processed fermented or acidified vegetables. These older processing technologies are not very efficient in the use of energy or water resources, however. Our recent experience with soaring energy prices makes it clear that major improvements in the ways we heat process our products are required. There are three promising approaches that could benefit the broad range of products and sizes of companies that constitute the membership of PPI. First, is to develop practical ways to preheat and pack vegetables to reduce or even eliminate the residence time required in current pasteurizers. Secondly, is to adapt newer thermal processing technologies, particularly microwave heating, to our products. Thirdly, is to modify containers and product ingredients such that less heat and associated water use is required to assure killing of pathogenic bacteria and other spoilage microorganisms. Modifications of processes require strong scientific justification to assure ourselves, FDA, and the public that safety and quality will be maintained. In concert with any new processing technologies adequate process verification methods to assure process control and acceptance of our processes by FDA must be developed and validated. **The objective will be to develop and transfer to the fermented and acidified vegetable industry new, scientifically validated energy efficient processing technologies that will assure the safety and quality of the products we make.**

Most of what we hear about bacteria in foods concerns the pathogens that cause disease. However, lactic acid bacteria are intentionally grown in fermented foods because they are needed to give foods like sauerkraut, yoghurt, cheeses, and fermented salami the characteristic flavors and textures that we desire. There is a growing body of research to indicate that certain living lactic acid bacteria are 'pro-biotic' in that they improve human health by remaining in the intestinal tract after they are consumed. Fermented or acidified vegetables may be a good way to deliver such pro-biotic bacteria to consumers. **The objective will be to identify pro-biotic lactic acid bacteria that can survive in high numbers in selected vegetable products and investigate the potential for using vegetables as healthful delivery vehicles for pro-biotic organisms.**

Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, East Lansing, Michigan

New innovations and technology can help deliver high quality and healthy fruits and vegetables for consumers and assure secure food supply at home and abroad. It is critical that an effective quality inspection and assurance system be implemented for food crops throughout the handling steps between harvest and retail. While automated quality inspection systems are currently used in many pickle processing facilities, there exists considerable room for improving current technologies and developing new and more efficient sensors and automated inspection methods for pickling vegetables. Methods currently available for measuring and grading quality of cucumbers and other vegetables remain ineffective and time consuming. Labor required for postharvest handling and processing operations represents a significant portion of the total production cost. New and/or improved technologies are needed to assess, inspect and grade pickling cucumbers and pickles rapidly and accurately for internal and external quality characteristics so that they can be directed to, or removed from, appropriate processing or marketing avenues. This will minimize postharvest losses of food that has already been produced and ensure high quality, consistent final product and end-user satisfaction.

The USDA/ARS Sugarbeet and Bean Research Unit at East Lansing, Michigan provides national leadership in research and development of innovative technologies and systems for assessing and assuring quality and marketability of tree fruits and pickling vegetables and enhancing production efficiency. It has developed a number of innovative engineering technologies for rapid, nondestructive measurement and inspection of postharvest quality of tree fruits and vegetables, including a novel spectral scattering technology for assessing the texture and flavor of fruits, a portable fruit firmness tester, and an optical property analyzing system for fruits and vegetables. Recently, an advanced hyperspectral imaging system was developed for automated detection of quality/defect of pickling cucumbers and pickles. Research at East Lansing will lead to new inspection and grading technology that will help the pickling industry in delivering high-quality safe products to the marketplace and achieving labor cost savings. Therefore, it is critical that additional resources be provided to support and expand the existing program to effectively address the technological needs for the pickling industry.

U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina

The research program at the USDA/ARS Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, addresses national problems in vegetable crop production and protection with emphasis on the southeastern United States. **This research program is internationally recognized for its accomplishments, which have resulted in development of over 150 new vegetable varieties and lines along with the development of many new and improved disease and pest management practices.** This laboratory's program currently addresses 14 vegetable crops including those in the cabbage, cucumber, and pepper families, which are of major importance to the pickling industry. The mission of the laboratory is to a) develop disease and pest resistant vegetable crops and b) develop new, reliable, environmentally sound disease and pest management programs that do not rely on conventional pesticides.

Continued expansion of the Charleston program is crucial. Vegetable growers depend heavily on synthetic pesticides to control diseases and pests. Cancellation and/or restrictions on the use of many effective pesticide compounds are having a considerable influence on the future of vegetable crop production. Without the use of certain pesticides, growers will experience crop failures unless other effective, non-pesticide control methods are found quickly. The research on improved, more efficient and environmentally compatible vegetable production practices and genetically resistant varieties at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory continues to be absolutely essential. This gives U.S. growers the competitive edge they must have to sustain and keep this important industry and allow it to expand in the face of increasing foreign competition. Current cucumber varieties are highly susceptible to a new strain of the downy mildew pathogen; this new strain has caused considerable damage to commercial cucumber production in some South Atlantic and Midwestern states during the past five years, and a new plant pathologist position needs to be established to address this critical situation.

FUNDING NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

It remains critical that funding continues the forward momentum in pickled vegetable research that the U.S. now enjoys and to increase funding levels as warranted by planned expansion of research projects to maintain U.S. competitiveness. We also understand that discretionary funds are now used to meet the rising fixed costs associated with each location. Additional funding is needed at the Wisconsin and South Carolina programs for genetic improvement of crops essential to the pickled vegetable industry, and at North Carolina and Michigan for development of environmentally-sensitive technologies for improved safety and value to the consumer of our products. The fermented and acidified vegetable industry is receptive to capital investment in order to remain competitive, but only if that investment is economically justified. The research needed to justify such capital investment involves both short term (6-24 months) and long term (2-10 years or longer) commitments. **The diverse array of companies making up our industry assumes responsibility for short-term research, but the expense and risk are too great for individual companies to commit to the long-term research needed to insure future competitiveness.** The pickled vegetable industry currently supports research efforts at Wisconsin and North Carolina and anticipates funding work at South Carolina and Michigan as scientists are put in place. Donations of supplies and processing equipment from processors and affiliated industries have continued for many years.

U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, South Carolina

The newly constructed laboratory-office building at the U.S. Vegetable Laboratory was occupied in April 2003. Design of the accompanying greenhouse and head house was completed in July 2004. Construction of the head house was completed in 2006, and construction of the initial phase of the greenhouse complex was completed in early fall 2008. In FY 2005, $2.976 million was appropriated for construction of greenhouses. In FY 2006, an additional $1.980 million was appropriated for construction of greenhouses, but an estimated $9.2 million is still needed to design and construct the final phases of the planned greenhouse complex. This new facility replaces and consolidates outmoded laboratory areas that were housed in 1930s-era buildings and trailers. Completion of the total research complex will provide for the effective continuation and expansion of the excellent vegetable crops research program that has been conducted by the Agricultural Research Service at Charleston for over 70 years.

New funds are needed to establish a plant pathology position to address cucumber diseases, especially the disease caused by a new strain of the downy mildew pathogen that has caused extensive damage to cucumber production in some South Atlantic and Midwestern states during the past five years. The plant pathologist is needed to characterize pathogen strains using molecular methodologies and to develop new management approaches and resistant cucumber lines. This new plant pathologist position will greatly contribute to the accomplishment of research that will provide for the effective protection of cucumbers from disease without the use of conventional pesticides. This position will require a funding level of $500,000 for its establishment.

Construction	Current Status	Funds Needed
Greenhouse design	Needed	$700,000
Greenhouse construction	Needed	8,500,000
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDS NEEDED		**$9,200,000**

New Scientific Staff Needed	Current Status	Funds Needed
Plant Pathologist (cucumber disease)	Needed	$500,000
NEW FUNDS NEEDED		**$500,000**

Food Fermentation Laboratory, Raleigh, North Carolina

The current funding for the laboratory is $1,264,000. To carry out the new research initiatives to reduce the energy and water use required to produce safe, high quality products and to develop systems to deliver pro-biotic lactic acid bacteria in acidified and fermented vegetable products, **we request additional support for the Food Fermentation Laboratory of $300,000 in FY 2011.** This will provide support for Post-Doctoral or Pre-Doctoral research associates along with necessary equipment and supplies to develop these new areas of research.

Scientific Staff	Current Status	Funds Needed
Microbiologist	Active	$316,000
Chemist	Active	316,000
Food Technologist/Biochemist	Active	316,000
Microbial Physiologist	Active	316,000
FY 2011 Post-doctoral and Predoctoral Research Associate	Needed	300,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED		**$1,564,000**
Presidential Budget (FY 2011)		$1,264,000
NEW FUNDS NEEDED		**$300,000**

Vegetable Crops Research Laboratory Unit, Madison, Wisconsin

Current base funding for three scientists is $889,600, of which $200,000 was added in FY 2002. Emerging diseases, such as downy mildew of cucumber, threaten production of the crop in all production areas. Therefore, we request an additional $270,400 to fully fund the scientists and support staff in FY 2011, including graduate students and post-doctorates for new research searching for genetic resistance to emerging diseases.

Scientific Staff in Place	Current Status	Funds Needed
Geneticist	Active	$320,000
Geneticist	Active	320,000
Geneticist	Active	320,000
FY 2011 Post-doctoral or Predoctoral Research Associates	Needed	200,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED		**$1,160,000**
Presidential Budget (FY 2011)		$889,600
NEW FUNDS NEEDED		**$270,400**

Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit, East Lansing, Michigan

Current base funding for the location is $190,000, which is far short of the funding level needed to carry out research on inspection, sorting and grading of pickling cucumbers and other vegetable crops to assure the processing and keeping quality of pickled products. An increase of $550,000 in the current base funding level would be needed to fund the research engineer position.

Scientific Staff in Place	Current Status	Funds Needed
Postdoctoral Research Associate	Active	$190,000
Research Engineer	Needed	550,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIRED		**$740,000**
Current Funding		190,000
NEW FUNDS NEEDED		**$550,000**

Thank you for your consideration and expression of support for the USDA/ARS.

TESTIMONY OF THE
RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, FY 2011
March 2010

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Wayne Dowd, and I am pleased to represent the Red River Valley Association as its President. Our organization was founded in 1925 with the express purpose of uniting the citizens of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas to develop the land and water resources of the Red River Basin.

The Resolutions contained herein were adopted by the Association during its 85th Annual Meeting in Bossier City, Louisiana on February 18, 2010, and represent the combined concerns of the citizens of the Red River Basin Area as they pertain to the goals of the Association.

As an organization that knows the value of our precious water resources we support the most beneficial water and land conservation programs administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We understand that attention and resources must be given to our national security and alternate energy sources; however, we cannot sacrifice what has been accomplished on our nation's lands. NRCS programs are a model of how conservation programs should be administered and our testimony will address the needs of the nation as well as our region.

We want to express our appreciation for the funding levels provided by Congress in the FY 2010 Appropriation Bill. Your plus up over the Administration's budget of $20.4 million in Conservation Operations was welcomed. More important was the funding you provided for Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations ($30 m) and RC&D ($50.7 m) when the Administration 'zeroed' out those programs.

What concerns us the most is the lack of water resource planning funding. If we are experiencing serious water issues across our nation today what will we face when our nation's population is expected to double in 50 years? As urban development spreads out into our urban areas we will lose water resources and agricultural lands. What will we do for drinking water and irrigation? If we started planning for this scenario today we would not be prepared in 50 years. No one is planning or preparing for this expected growth and future demands on our water needs. Water and food supply are a matter of national security. It is inconceivable that we would consider outsourcing our water and food, more than we do now. We request that Congress fund the NRCS planning accounts and reenergize the planning process to preserve our national independence on our food and water resources.

1. **Conservation Operations:** This account has been in steady decline, in real dollars, over the past several years. Mandated increases in pay and benefits, continuing increases in the 'cost of doing business' and budget reductions greatly reduces the effective work that can be

accomplished in this account. Allocations should be increased not decreased and we acknowledge and appreciate that Congress did increase this account in FY 2010 from FY 2009. We request a total of $950 million be appropriated for Conservation Operations for NRCS to meet the demands it faces today.
Conservation Technical Assistance is the foundation of technical support and a sound, scientific delivery system for voluntary conservation to the private users and owners of lands in the United States. It is imperative that we provide assistance to all 'working lands' not just those fortunate few who are able to enroll in a Federal program. Working lands are not just crops and pasture (commodity staples) but includes forests, wildlife habitat and coastal marshes. The problem is that NRCS personnel funded from 'mandatory programs' can only provide technical assistance to those enrolled in these programs, leaving the majority of the agricultural community without technical assistance. We recommend that adequate funding be placed in 'Conservation Technical Assistance', and allow NRCS to provide assistance to all who are in need of assistance.

2. **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (PL566 & 534):** There is no doubt that this is a Federal responsibility, in conjunction with a local sponsor. This program addresses all watersheds needs to include: flood protection, water quality, water supply and the ecosystem. There is no Corps of Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation or FEMA program to address small watershed needs, before disaster strikes. We recommend that Congress continue to hold oversight hearings to understand the importance and hear how popular this program is to our communities.

Over the past 50 years these projects have developed a $15 billion infrastructure that is providing $1.5 billion in annual benefits to over 47 million people. It is not a Federal program, but a federally assisted program. This partnership between local communities, state agencies and NRCS has been successful for over 50 years. It would take $1.6 billion to fund the existing federal commitment to local project sponsors. This cost only increases every year if adequate funding is not provided.

All ongoing contracts will be terminated, if you allow this program to end. This will ultimately lead to lawsuits and tort claims filed by both sponsors and contractors, due to the federal government not fulfilling its contractual obligation.

We are very appreciative for the funding level of $30 million enacted in FY 2010 ($5.7 m more than FY 2009). For every $1 spent, the nation realizes $2 in benefits. Congress must take responsibility for this program.

There are many new projects, which are awaiting funds for construction under this program. We strongly recommend that a funding level of $75 million be appropriated for Watershed Operations Programs, PL534 ($20 million) and PL566 ($55 million).

The Red River has proven, through studies and existing irrigation, to be a great water source for 'supplemental' irrigation. The two projects mentioned below, will use existing, natural bayous to deliver water for landowners to draw from. The majority of expense will be for the pump system to take water from the Red River to the bayous. These projects will provide the ability to move from ground water dependency to surface water, an effort encouraged throughout the nation. Both will enhance the environmental quality and economic vitality of the small communities adjacent to the projects.

a. **Red Bayou Irrigation Project, LA**: This project has received funding from the 2010 'Stimulus' package. The State of Louisiana provided the required cost share ($1.1 million) to move forward with construction. It is not only a very important irrigation project for NW Louisiana, but will serve as a model for similar projects throughout the state and along the Red River in Arkansas.

b. **Walnut Bayou Irrigation Project, AR**: Plans and specifications have been completed and it is ready to proceed into the construction phase. An irrigation district has been formed and they are prepared to take on the responsibility to generate the income for the O&M required to support this project. We request that $4,000,000 be appropriated for these projects in FY 2011.

3. **Watershed Rehabilitation**: More than 10,400 individual watershed structures have been installed nationally, with approximately one-third in the Red River Valley. They have contributed greatly to conservation, environmental protection and enhancement, economic development and the social well being of our communities. More than half of these structures are over 30 years old and several hundred are approaching their 50-year life expectancy. Today you hear a lot about the watershed approach to resource management. They protect more people and communities from flooding now than when they were first constructed. The benefit to cost ratio for this program has been evaluated to be 2.2:1. What other federal program can claim such success?

In the next five years over 900 watershed structures will require over $570 million for rehabilitation. Each year this number increases as more dams reach their 50-year life. There is no questioning the value of this program. The cost of losing this infrastructure exceeds the cost to reinvest in our existing watersheds. Without repairing and upgrading the safety of existing structures, we miss the opportunity to keep our communities alive and prosperous. It would be irresponsible to dismantle a program that has demonstrated such great return and is supported by our citizens. We cannot wait for a catastrophe to occur, where life is lost, to decide to take on this important work.

Past Administration budgets have neglected the safety and well being of our community needs and recommended minimum funding for this program. Appropriations have been drastically lower than the levels authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, which authorized $600 million for rehabilitation for 2003-2007.

We request that $65 million be appropriated to provide financial and technical assistance to those watershed projects where sponsors are prepared (35% cost share) to commence rehabilitation.

4. **Watershed Survey and Planning:** In FY 2006, $6.1 million was appropriated to support this extremely important community program. However, no funding has been provided since FY 2007. NRCS has become a facilitator for the different community interest groups, state and federal agencies. In our states such studies are helping identify resource needs and solutions where populations are encroaching into rural areas. The Administration and Congress has

decided not to fund this program. We disagree with this and ask Congress to fund this program at the appropriate level.

Proper planning and cooperative efforts can prevent problems and insure that water resource issues are addressed. Zeroing out the planning process assumes the economy will not grow and there is no need for future projects. We do not believe anyone supports or believes this. Another serious outcome is that NRCS will lose its planning expertise, which is invaluable.

We request this program be funded at a level of $35 million.

We request that the following two studies be specifically identified and funded in the FY 2010 appropriation bill.

a. **Maniece Bayou Irrigation Project, AR**: This is a project in its initial stage of planning. An irrigation district is being formed to be the local sponsor. This project transfers water from the Red River into Maniece Bayou where landowners would draw water for supplemental irrigation. We request that $200,000 be appropriated to initiate the plans and specifications.

b. **Lower Cane River Irrigation Project, LA**: The transfer of water from the Red River to the Lower Cane River will provide opportunities for irrigation and economic development. Funds are needed to initiate a Cooperative River Basin Study. We request that $250,000 be appropriated for this study.

5. **Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)**: This has traditionally been a well-received program by the Administration, but not last year. The budget proposal zeroed out this important program. This program leverages its resources at 4 to 1, with communities, local sponsors and non-government organizations. The benefits are realized at over 14 to 1, average per project. Congress showed how important they believe this program is by providing $50.7 million in FY 2010. We do not agree with the current Administration eliminating this program and request Congress continue its support for this program.

We request that $51 million be appropriated for this program, at the same level as in FY 2010.

6. **Mandatory Accounts (CCC) Technical Assistance (TA)**: Request for assistance through the CCC programs has been overwhelming. Requests far exceed the available funds and place an additional workload on NRCS's delivery system. Adequate funding for TA must be provided at the full cost for program delivery. This includes program administration, conservation planning and contracting with each applicant. Congress, in the 2002 Farm Bill, wisely increased conservation programs each year. This increased investment, will increase the NRCS workload. It is imperative that NRCS receive the TA funding levels required to administer these programs. If they do not receive full funding these programs will not realize their full capability.

It has been mandated that a set percent of TA, from the CCC Program, must be used for TSPs. This is equivalent to losing 600 staff years from NRCS manpower. This is another unacceptable policy, which will reduce the effectiveness of NRCS. This mandate must be eliminated.

Over 70% of our land is privately owned. This is important in order to understand the need for NRCS programs and technical assistance. Their presence is vital to ensuring sound technical standards are met in conservation. These programs not only address agricultural production, but sound natural resource management. Without these programs and NRCS properly staffed to implement them, many private landowners will not be served adequately to apply conservation measures needed to sustain our natural resources for future generations. Technical Assistance cannot be contracted out to private companies.

We are all aware of the issue with TMDL levels in our waterways. If our nation is to seriously address this we must look at the impacts from our farmlands. Assistance for land treatment plans and plan implementation is exactly what the NRCS Watershed programs are intended to address. Watershed programs should be receiving an increase in funds, not eliminated!

With these new clean water initiatives why do we ignore the agency that has a proven record for implementing watershed conservation programs? Congress must decide; will NRCS continue to provide the leadership within our communities to build upon the partnerships already established? It is up to Congress to insure NRCS is properly funded and staffed to provide the needed assistance to our taxpayers for conservation programs.

These NRCS studies and watershed projects are an example of true 'cooperative conservation' initiatives. There is an interface with communities and local sponsors at each step of the process and local sponsors do cost share at the levels expected of them.

All these programs apply to the citizens in the Red River Valley and their future is our concern. The RRVA is dedicated to work toward the programs that will benefit our citizens and provide for high quality of life standards. We therefore request that you appropriate the requested funding within these individual programs, to insure our nation's conservation needs are met.

I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the members of the Red River Valley Association and we pledge our support to assist you in the appropriation process. Please direct your comments and questions to our Executive Director, Richard Brontoli, P.O. Box 709, Shreveport, LA 71162, (318) 221-5233, E-mail: redriverva@hotmail.com.

Grant Disclosure: The Red River Valley Association has not received any federal grant, sub-grant or contract during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years.

Written Testimony of
Tom Easley
Director of Programs – Rocky Mountain Climate Organization
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
Concerning
Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request for Climate Data Monitoring Networks

March 19, 2010

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the following representatives of government agencies, water providers, and organizations with a stake in Colorado's water future:

Nolan Doesken
Colorado State Climatologist

Eric Kuhn
General Manager
Colorado River Water Conservation District

David Little
Director of Planning
Denver Water

Brett Gracely
Water Resource Planning Supervisor
Colorado Springs Utilities

Brad Udall
Director
CU-NOAA Western Water Assessment

Stephen Saunders
President
Rocky Mountain Climate Organization

Joel Smith
Principal
Stratus Consulting

Drew Beckwith
Water Policy Analyst
Western Resource Advocates

Drew Peternell
Director
Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project

Specifically, we respectfully request your consideration of inclusion of additional FY 2011 funding for the following programs:

- Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Snowpack Telemetry Program
  - Additional monitoring stations - $2,275,000, and for FY 2012 and years beyond, $260,000 per year for recurring annual operations and maintenance costs.
  - Soil moisture and sublimation instrumentation - $650,000, and for FY 2012 and years beyond, $520,000 per year for recurring annual operations and maintenance costs.
- Department of Agriculture, line item to be determined- $335,000 and for FY 2012 and years beyond, $195,000 per year for recurring annual operations and maintenance costs.

Since 2007 our organizations, and others in Colorado, have been collaborating on strategies to prepare for the changes that scientists have identified as the likely impacts of climate change on Colorado's most critical natural resource – the water resources that enable our people, commerce, and natural systems to thrive. Key to our ability in Colorado, and across the West, to understand and adapt to the effects of climate change on water supplies will be good information on what changes are occurring with respect to such key elements as temperatures, precipitation, snowpack, the timing of snowmelt, streamflows, and soil moisture. The data collection systems that currently exist to gather this information were not designed to track changes in climate, and so are incomplete to meet today's needs. Many of the programs for collecting and disseminating these data have deteriorated or have been diverted over the last quarter-century, with the result that many long-term climate and streamflow records have been interrupted.

The additional climate/water monitoring needs we identify are for systems in Colorado and the Upper Colorado River Basin, but they are needed for national reasons, as well. The state of Colorado supplies 70 to 75 percent of the water in the Colorado River. About 30 million Americans, or about one-tenth of all Americans, living in seven states – Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming – depend on Colorado River water. The largest city in each of those seven states depends on Colorado River water. Twenty-two of the 32 largest cities in those seven states depend on Colorado River water. Fifteen percent of the nation's crops and 13 percent of the nation's livestock depend on Colorado River water. Some of the nation's most spectacular natural resources, including our largest concentration of national parks, depend on Colorado River water.

Yet scientists consistently tell us that a changed climate is likely to reduce the flow of the Colorado River. As this is already the most over-allocated river in the nation, this presents a challenge of great national significance.

No less important to those who depend on them are the other rivers that originate in Colorado, including the Rio Grande, Arkansas, and North and South Platte rivers, which supply additional millions of Americans not just in our state but in downstream states. These rivers, too, may be substantially affected by the hotter and drier conditions projected to result in the interior West from a changed climate.

To be able to address these challenges, we have a pressing, critical need to know more than we now do about our water resources and how they may be affected over time. That is the purpose of our proposal for relatively modest increases in these key budget accounts:

1. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) stations

    a. NRCS installs, operates, and maintains SNOTEL – an extensive, automated system designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States and Alaska. There is widespread desire for more SNOTEL stations in the Upper Colorado River basin, to provide a stronger basis for seasonal runoff forecasts. Climate change and its effects on the distribution of snow pack with elevation is also a concern among water managers in the basin. The installation of SNOTEL stations to provide a transect across the topographic gradient is required to better understand this phenomenon. While there have been some new installations made recently in watersheds of the Blue, Fraser, and Gunnison Rivers, an additional 65 stations are needed in the Upper Colorado River Basin to augment the existing 117 stations.

       Our funding request: SNOTEL stations cost approximately $35,000 to install, and $4,000 per year thereafter to operate and maintain. Our FY 2011 request is for $2,275,000 to fund station installation costs, and for FY 2012 and years beyond, $260,000 per year for annual recurring operations and maintenance costs.

    b. There is also a widespread perception among water managers that seasonal runoff volumes in recent years have not been commensurate with observed snow pack accumulations. Consequently, there is a desire for greater insight into the physical processes governing the fate of the snow pack, with particular interest in sublimation and soil moisture as potential explanatory factors. Unfortunately, these processes are observed to a very limited extent, leading to the suggestion that SNOTEL stations be fitted with additional instrumentation to measure soil moisture and atmospheric variables governing sublimation (radiation, wind, humidity, etc).

       Our funding request: Cost of installation of these instruments runs around $10,000 per site. While O&M of soil moisture instruments is not high, the atmospheric sensors do require significant ongoing care. The estimated cost to maintain SNOTEL stations with these additional instruments is $8,000 per year. Our FY 2011 request is for $650,000 to fund installation of instruments, and for FY 2012 and years beyond, $520,000 per year to fund recurring annual operations and maintenance costs.

2. Department of Agriculture, Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (CoAgMet) evapotranspiration monitoring, line item to be determined

   This request falls outside of the auspices of the Upper Colorado River Basin, but is critical for ensuring adequate climate monitoring over Colorado's agricultural lands. In collaboration with several federal, state and local organizations, CoAgMet was established as a specialized monitoring network twenty years ago. CoAgMet currently consists of 60 stations and is designed to provide meteorological and climatological information most needed for agricultural production, research and planning. This network is particularly well suited for estimating and tracking evapotranspiration (ET) from irrigated croplands. With nearly twenty years of data, the network is just now getting to the point where analyses to detect trends are feasible. Projected changes in Colorado temperatures will likely cause changes in ET and it is critical that we have the capabilities to track this over time.

   Colorado state government's ongoing budget challenges are forcing it to downsize this network by as much as 50 percent by the end of 2010. This is a very serious matter. Prior to the economic downturn, there was an identified need for 22 additional observing sites in eastern Colorado plus six sites in the irrigated valleys of western Colorado to better track climatic conditions (wind, humidity, solar energy, soil temperature, etc.) affecting agriculture. The cost of purchasing and installing a new station is approximately $10,000. Annual maintenance costs are $2,000 - $2,500/year per station depending on location. There is also an interest in soil moisture monitoring over Colorado's dryland agricultural areas. Instrumentation could be added to the CoAgMet stations in non-irrigated environments to meet this need at a cost of $2,500 per site.

   Our funding request: Our FY 2011 request to complete the CoAgMet network is $335,000 ($280,000 for hardware and installation of new stations, plus $55,000 for soil moisture instrumentation in the 22 new stations in eastern Colorado). For FY 2012 and years beyond, our request is for $195,000 per year in recurring annual operations and maintenance costs.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these requests further, and stand ready to supply additional information as needed. I can be reached at the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization at 303-887-4626 or easley@rockymountainclimate.org. I can engage with others on behalf of whom this testimony is submitted to get additional information if that would be helpful.

San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue • San Diego, California 92123-1233
(858) 522-6600 FAX (858) 522-6568 www.sdcwa.org

March 18, 2010

MEMBER AGENCIES
Carlsbad Municipal Water District
City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of National City
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego
Fallbrook Public Utility District
Helix Water District
Lakeside Water District
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Otay Water District
Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base
Rainbow Municipal Water District
Ramona Municipal Water District
Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
San Dieguito Water District
Santa Fe Irrigation District
South Bay Irrigation District
Vallecitos Water District
Valley Center Municipal Water District
Vista Irrigation District
Yuima Municipal Water District

OTHER REPRESENTATIVE
County of San Diego

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2362A Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515-6016

Re: Support for Fiscal Year 2011 federal funding of at least $20 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro:

Your support is needed to secure adequate funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program for Fiscal Year 2011. This program has implemented important salinity control projects for the Colorado River since 1974, benefitting water users from seven states through more efficient water management and reduced salinity concentrations in Colorado River water. To continue this work, the Water Authority urges the USDA's salinity control program be funded at least $20 million for Fiscal Year 2011.

The Colorado River is the primary source of drinking water for more than 3 million people in San Diego County. Excess salinity causes economic damages in the San Diego region worth millions of dollars annually. It also hinders local water agency efforts to stretch limited supplies by recycling and reusing water. The local impacts of excess salinity include:

- reduced crop yields for farmers, who produce more than $1 billion of agricultural products in the San Diego region;
- the reduced useful life of commercial and residential water pipe systems, water heaters, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers, and dishwashers;
- the increased household use of expensive bottled water and water softeners;
- increased water treatment facility costs;
- difficulty meeting federal and California wastewater discharge requirements; and
- fewer opportunities for water recycling due to excess salt in the product water, which limits usefulness for commercial and agricultural irrigation.

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
March 18, 2010
Page 2 of 2

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control program has proven to be a very cost-effective approach to mitigate the impacts of increased salinity in the Colorado River. Continued federal funding of this important program is essential. The Colorado River is the single most important source of water for the San Diego region, as well as the rest of the seven-state Colorado River Basin. Maintenance of the river's water quality through an effective salinity control program is an investment that avoids millions of dollars in economic damages caused by excess salinity.

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council has recommended that the USDA salinity control effort be funded at least $20.0 million annually. The Water Authority supports the Forum's recommendation and urges this Subcommittee to support this level of funding for 2011. The Water Authority would appreciate your assistance in securing adequate funding for this important effort.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Stapleton
General Manager

Martha Nolan
Vice President, Public Policy
Society for Women's Health Research
202-496-5007
Martha@womenshealthresearch.org

Written Testimony By:
Phyllis Greenberger, MSW: President and CEO, Society for Women's Health Research and Jeanne Becker, Ph.D.: Chair, Women's Health Research Coalition

Before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
March 12, 2010
Submitted for the Record

On the behalf of the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) and the Women's Health Research Coalition (WHRC), we are pleased to submit testimony in support of increased funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to $2,857 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2011, and specifically support increased funding for the Office of Women's Health (OWH), a critical focal point on women's health within the Agency.

Founded in 1990, SWHR brought to national attention the need for the appropriate inclusion of women in major medical research studies and the need for more information about conditions affecting women exclusively, disproportionately, or differently than men. SWHR advocates increased funding for research on women's health; encourages the study of sex differences that may affect the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; promotes the inclusion of women in medical research studies; and informs women, providers, policy makers and media about contemporary women's health issues.

In 1999, the WHRC was established by SWHR to give a voice to scientists and researchers from across the country that are concerned and committed to improving women's health research. WHRC now has more than 650 members, including leaders within the scientific community and medical researchers from many of the country's leading universities and medical centers, as well as leading voluntary health associations, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

SWHR and WHRC are committed to advancing the health status of women through the discovery of new and useful scientific knowledge. Appropriate funding of the FDA by Congress is critical for the Agency to function and to assure the American public of the safety of its food and drugs. Good investments have been made in recent years that are helping to restore the FDA's resources; however, the FDA is endeavoring to catch up after years of flat funding to meet the needs of scientific growth, innovation and development, and adequate food and drug protection. Further, FDA is struggling to catch up to present-day needs in the area of information technology (IT).

Past investments in the FDA, as well as the budget increases secured under Representative DeLauro's leadership, have undoubtedly helped the FDA continue to meet—to varying degrees—the numerous responsibilities assigned to it. What remain to be seen are what advancements in medicine and what protections to the nation's food and drug supply are jeopardized by the FDA budget barely matching inflation year after year. With over 80% of FDA's budget going toward its scientists and staff, one must consider the impact of not investing in the human collateral that makes the FDA and the U.S. the world leaders in drug and food safety. Until sound investments are made in the FDA's scientists, training, and infrastructure, it will be forced to keep "hanging on by its fingernails"—acting in a reactionary way against the threats to food and drug security and lacking the resources to foster a new culture of proactive science and research leadership.

SWHR recognizes the need to control discretionary spending; however, the strength of the FDA must be a public priority. The 6% increase in President Obama's budget request is a good start, but SWHR urges Congress to provide the FDA with an increase of $495 million over FY 2010 and $350 million more than the Administration's request, bringing the FDA's FY 2011 budget to a proposed $2,857 billion. This funding increase will allow the FDA to continue rebuilding its infrastructure and addressing the shortage of resources was well as building on the catch up effort on IT systems that will match the needs of the industries it is regulating and expectations of the American public. From promoting wellness and meeting health care needs to protecting the food supply, the FDA touches each American each day. We risk jeopardizing the important work they do through underfunding.

Further, key investment that must be taken into account at the FDA is the Office of Women's Health (OWH). OWH's women's health programs, often conducted with the Agency centers, are vital to maintaining focus on women's health within the FDA. They are critical to improved care and increased awareness of disease-specific impacts to women. For example, OWH ensures that sex and gender differences in the efficacy of drugs (such as metabolism rates), devices (sizes and functionality) and diagnostics are taken into consideration in reviews. To address OWH's growing list of priorities, the Society recommends that Congress support an additional $2 million budget for OWH for FY 2011 within the budget for the FDA. In addition, we further recommend that the current budget levels not only increase in the future, but should never be less than the $6 million that the office currently receives.

FDA Information Technology Systems

The FDA is tasked with guarding the safety, efficacy, and security of human drugs, biological products, and medical devices. However, as was stated by the 2007 Science Board Report, requested by former Commissioner von Eschenbach, FDA's IT systems were inefficient and incapable of handling the current demands placed on the Agency, thus preventing the FDA from fulfilling its mission. Equipment still remains outdated, often unsupported by maintenance, and regularly breaks down. Some computer experts are being brought back out of retirement to service the systems now too old to be corrected by current FDA employees. FDA's IT system, a system which needs to function 24/7, simply cannot keep up with current scientific data, new technology, and technological advances (such as nanotechnology), as well as market trends. This will only continue to worsen.

Additionally, the on-going discussion on an overhaul of the nation's healthcare system again brought to light poor IT systems as a recurring source of medical errors and financial and personal losses. Comprehensive or piecemeal reform efforts are likely to include further advances to electronic health records and other innovations which will place an even greater burden on the FDA, among other agencies, to function within those advanced IT systems and networks.

The antiquated nature of the current IT systems also makes the FDA unable to keep up appropriately in safety analyses, tracking the natural history and disease models for rare disorders, or accessing huge amounts of clinical data and emerging trends. The creation of a central database would provide a centralized repository for all relevant facts about a certain product including where, when and how the product was made. Such a uniform and centralized database will be relevant for all information stored across agencies, so as to maximize functionality not only of FDA's data but for any other research and analysis needed by the American public for safety and surveillance..

Currently, the FDA receives large volumes of information for review and evaluation in applications from drug manufacturers. FDA reviewers must manually comb through the submitted drug trial reports and digital data in as many as twelve different formats when evaluating a new drug's safety and effectiveness. Frequently, reviewers must handpick data manually from stacks of paper reports and craft their own data comparisons. This process is time consuming, makes the review process less efficient, more error-prone, and ultimately delays access to important information. Scientific and medical advances are occurring rapidly and the public needs and deserves access to the most recent and accurate information regarding their health. It is time Congress enables the FDA to utilize up-to-date information technology.

SWHR believes that the FDA and it's Office of Women's Health should be able to track women or men and other subpopulations in all clinical trials being monitored and they are currently not able to do so. The FDA should be able to know how many women are in studies, both by recruitment and retention rates. This should be an immediate goal of any new IT system upgrade at the FDA, in conjunction with the adoption of uniform data standards from which to pull the data and as part of the shift to a fully automated, electronic filing system.

Office of Women's Health

OWH at the FDA, established in 1994, plays a critical role in women's health, both within and outside the Agency, supporting sex- and gender-based research, areas in which SWHR has long been a proponent. OWH provides scientific and policy expertise on sex and gender sensitive regulatory and oversight issues; endeavors to correct sex and gender disparities in the areas for which the FDA is responsible – drugs, devices, and biologics. OWH also monitors women's health priorities, providing both leadership and an integrated approach to problem solving across the FDA. Despite inadequate funding, OWH continues to provide women with invaluable tools for their health.

Each year OWH, with little difficulty, exhausts its tiny budget. OWH's pamphlets are the most requested of any documents at the government printing facility in Colorado. In 2009, more than

5.2 million pamphlets were distributed to women across the Nation, including target populations such as Hispanic communities, seniors and low-income citizens. Since its creation, OWH has awarded $21.7 million in research funds. Last year, two of OWH's intramural research projects were recognized by the Senate Excellence in Aging Research Committee Report as exemplary research performed by departments and agencies within the federal government that seeks to advance the well-being of older Americans. Despite the $1 million increase the office received last year, additional funding is needed so OWH may continue its present work on current projects, but also expand and develop future projects.

It is absolutely critical for Congress to take action now to help preserve the vital functions of OWH and to ensure that its small budget is dedicated to the resource needs of the office and to the projects, programs, and research it funds.

Since its beginning, OWH has funded high quality scientific research to serve as the foundation for FDA activities that improve women's health. Since 1994, OWH has funded approximately 195 research projects with approximately $15.7 million in intramural grants, supporting projects within the FDA that address knowledge gaps or set new directions for sex and gender research. All contracts and grants are awarded through a competitive process. A large number of these studies are published and appear in peer reviewed journals.

As part of its educational outreach efforts to consumers, OWH works closely with women's advocacy and health professional organizations to provide clarity on the results of the Women's Health Initiative. Due to OWH efforts, an informational fact sheet about menopause and hormones and a purse-sized questionnaire to review with the doctor were distributed to national and local print, radio, and Internet advertisers.

Further, OWH's website serves as a vital tool for consumers and is regularly updated to include new and important health information. The website provides free, downloadable fact sheets on over one hundred different illnesses, diseases, and health related issues for women. OWH has created medication charts on several chronic diseases, listing all the medications that are prescribed and available for each disease. This information is ideal for women to use in talking to their doctors, pharmacists, or nurses about their treatment options. They have also collaborated with Pharmacy Choice, Inc. to create a web portal solely dedicated to FDA consumer health education materials, providing access to fact sheets and medication guides. In keeping with current technology trends, OWH has used social media networks like twitter to reach out to consumers.

OWH and Sex Differences Research

Scientists have long known of the anatomical differences between men and women, but only within the past decade have they begun to uncover significant biological and physiological differences. Sex differences have been found everywhere from the composition of bone matter and the experience of pain, to the metabolism of certain drugs and the rate of neurotransmitter synthesis in the brain. Sex-based biology, the study of biological and physiological differences between men and women, has revolutionized the way that many in the scientific community view the sexes, with even more information forthcoming as a result of the sequencing of the X chromosome. The evidence is overwhelming, and as researchers continue to find more and more complex biological differences, they gain a greater understanding of the biological and physiological composition of both sexes.

Much of what is known about sex differences is the result of observational studies, or is descriptive evidence from studies that were not designed to obtain a careful comparison between females and males. SWHR has long recognized that the inclusion of women in study populations by itself was insufficient to address the inequities in our knowledge of human biology and medicine, and that only by the careful study of sex differences at all levels, from genes to behavior, would science achieve the goal of optimal health care for both men and women. Many sex differences are already present at birth, whereas others develop later in life. These differences play an important role in disease susceptibility, prevalence, time of onset, and severity and have documented roles in cancer, obesity, heart disease, immune dysfunction, mental health disorders, and other illnesses. Physiological differences and hormonal fluctuations may also play a role in the rate of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination as well as ultimate effectiveness of response in females as opposed to males. This vital research is supported and encouraged by the OWH, working directly with the various centers to advance the science in this area, collaborating on programs, projects, and research.

Our country's drug development process has succeeded in delivering new and better targeted medications to ensure the health of both women and men. However, the requirement that the data acquired during research of a new drug's safety and effectiveness be analyzed as a function of sex is generally not enforced. Information about the ways drugs may differ in various populations (e.g., women requiring a lower dosage because of different rates of absorption or chemical breakdown) are often not explored, or female enrollment in studies is too low to adequately power results, and as a result this vital information continues to not be included in prescription drug labels and other patient educational and instructional materials

SWHR believes that the opportunity to present this information to consumers exists now. Sex differences data discovered from clinical trials can be directly relayed to the medical community and to consumers through appropriate education, drug labeling and packaging inserts, and other forms of alerts directed to key audiences. As part of advancing the need to analyze and report sex differences, SWHR encourages the FDA to continue addressing the need for accurate, sex-specific drug labeling to better serve male and female patients, as well as to ensure that appropriate data analysis of post-market surveillance reporting for these differences is placed in the hands of physicians and ultimately the patient.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we thank you and this Committee for its strong record of support for the FDA and women's health, as well as your commitment to OWH. We recommend that you exceed the Administration's proposed increase, **appropriating $495 million more than FY2010, for an overall FY11 budget for the FDA of $2,857 billion, overall**, so that it may dramatically improve upon current operations while also rebuilding its IT infrastructure. Secondly, we urge you to **allocate $8 million for the Office of Women's Health for FY 2011**, and to ensure that future budget appropriations for the OWH are never below current funding levels. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build a stronger and healthier future for all Americans.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
5410 Grosvenor Lane • Bethesda, MD 20814-2197
Tel: (301) 897-9770 • Fax: (301) 530-2471
E-mail: tws@wildlife.org

Submitted by:
Bruce Leopold, President
The Wildlife Society
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2144

19 March 2010

Submitted to: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the FY 2011 budgets for the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Wildlife Society represents over 9,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to sound wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Wildlife Society is committed to strengthening all federal programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats on agricultural and other private land.

This is a difficult financial year, with many programs across the board being asked to take significant cuts in appropriations. While budget cuts may be unavoidable, we urge Congress to remember that many of the programs funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) play a key role in protecting our natural resources, safeguarding wildlife and human health, and securing our economy in the face of a changing climate. And, with the President's focus on addressing climate change, as well as the potential for climate change and energy legislation to emerge from Congress, funding for the programs within USDA that support environmental science, develop mitigation strategies, and implement conservation measures are more important now than ever before.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Wildlife Services, a unit of APHIS, is responsible for controlling wildlife damage to agriculture, aquaculture, forest, range, and other natural resources, monitoring wildlife-borne diseases, and protecting wildlife at airports. Its activities are based on the principles of wildlife management and integrated damage management, and are carried out cooperatively with state fish and wildlife agencies. The administration's request this year is a $7.69 million decrease from FY 2010. Such a significant decrease would substantially reduce funding for state and federal cooperative wildlife damage programs across the country; just a few of the programs affected would be Hawaii Wildlife Operations, Louisiana Rice Damage, and Pennsylvania Cooperative Livestock Protection. Funding cuts for these programs not only result in significant ecological damage, but they threaten local economies as well. **TWS recommends that Congress increase the**

appropriation for Wildlife Services Operations to $79.9 million; this amount would continue to provide support for the ongoing programs funded through the direct_appropriations process, and it would as well as fund necessary safety improvements and cover the programmed pay costs for operations.

Another key budget line in Wildlife Services is **Methods Development**, which funds the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). Much of the newest and most cross-cutting research that is critical to state wildlife agencies is being performed at the NWRC, and in order for State wildlife management programs to be the most up-to-date, the mission of the NWRC must continue. The President's request is currently a $2.84 million decrease from FY 2010 enacted levels. The result of this decrease is that programs conducting research into human-wildlife conflict (Jack Berryman Institute), invasive species and seed crops (Hilo Hawaii Field Station), and wildlife disease (Kingsville Texas Field Station) would all be eliminated or severely reduced. Such a loss could be devastating in this era as human and wildlife issues are becoming increasingly intertwined. **TWS requests that Congress restore $3.7 million to the Methods Development line to ensure adequate funding for the National Wildlife Research Center.**

Finally, TWS is recommending providing $20.6 million to Veterinary Services for addressing the import and export of invasive species. The potential import of exotic diseases, parasites, and vectors into the US is a grave threat to human, wildlife, and habitat health and has the potential to cause incalculable economic damage. To mitigate this, it is important that APHIS -Veterinary Services is able to conduct inspections at all US ports. The historic method of relying on import or user fees is inadequate and varies greatly from year to year. Also, as wildlife disease continues to spread worldwide, more exotic species are continually imported, and the number of ports of entry increase, the resources for inspections are stretched even further. Therefore, TWS recommends funding $7 million beyond the Administration's request of $13.6 million, $3 million to support inspections, and an additional $4 million for surveillance of exotic parasites, and staffing and operations of offshore disease monitoring and evaluation.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) provides an expanded, comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources. The RREA funds, which are apportioned to State Extension Services, effectively leverage cooperative partnerships at an average of four to one, with a focus on private landowners. The need for RREA educational programs is greater than ever today because of continuing fragmentation of ownership, urbanization, the diversity of landowners needing assistance, and increasing societal concerns about land use and the impact on natural resources including soil, water, air, wildlife and other environmental factors. **The Wildlife Society recommends that the Renewable Resources Extension Act be funded at $30 million,** as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.

The **McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program** is essential to the future of resource management on non-industrial private forestlands, as forest products are produced while conserving natural resources, including fish and wildlife. As demand for forest products grow, privately held forests will increasingly be needed to supplement supplies, but trees suitable for harvest take decades to produce. In the absence of long-term and on-going research, such as provided through McIntire-Stennis, the nation could be unable to meet future forest-product needs. **We appreciate the over $29 million in funding allocated in the FY10 appropriations and urge that amount to be increased to $31 million in FY2011.**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Farm Bill conservation programs are more important than ever, given huge backlogs of qualified applicants for these programs, increased pressure on farmland from the biofuels boom, sprawling development, and the ongoing declines in wildlife habitat and water quality. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which administers many of the Farm Bill conservation programs, is one of the primary contributors to ensuring that our public and private lands are made resilient to climate change. NRCS does this through a variety of programs that are aimed to preserve land, protect water resources, and mitigate effects of climate change.

The Wildlife Society recommends that the Farm Bill conservation programs be funded at the levels mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill. Currently, the Administration's request results in collective program reductions of about $705 million less than authorized levels. TWS encourages Congress to restore funding for all conservation programs at authorized levels. Demand for these programs continues to grow during this difficult economic climate when more assistance than ever is needed to address natural resource challenges and conservation goals, such as climate change, soil quality deficiencies, declining pollinator health, disease and invasive species, water quality and quantity issues, as well as degraded, fragmented and lost habitat for fish and wildlife. We would also like to particularly highlight the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), a voluntary program for landowners who want to improve wildlife habitat on agricultural, nonindustrial, and Indian land. WHIP plays an important role in protecting and restoring America's environment, and is doubly important because it actively engages public participation in conservation. **We urge Congress to fully fund WHIP at $85 million.**

Farm Services Administration

We also note that 4 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts have expired, and **we recommend that a general sign up of these 4 million + acres be added in order to more fully realize the conservation needs of the nation.** Additionally, the Administration's budget request, $15 million less than FY2010, in part reflects a CRP enrollment projection of 30.2 million acres by the end of FY2011, which is 1.8 million acres below the enrollment authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Farmers need CRP to provide supplemental income, and enrolled lands provide an important source of fish and wildlife habitat as well as help achieve soil and water conservation needs. **We also recommend that CRP should be funded at a level that allows for full enrollment of authorized CRP acres.**

Thank you for considering the views of wildlife professionals. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure adequate funding for wildlife conservation. Please feel free to contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs, at (301) 897-9770 x308 if you need further information or have any questions.

Written Testimony prepared by Brise Tencer, Washington Representative of the Union of Concerned Scientists, on behalf of the following:

Keep Antibiotics Working ▪ Center for Science in the Public Interest ▪ Environmental Defense Fund ▪ Food Animal Concerns Trust ▪ Humane Society of the United States ▪ Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy ▪ Lymphoma Foundation of America ▪ National Catholic Rural Life Conference ▪ Safe Tables Our Priority ▪ Union of Concerned Scientists ▪ Waterkeeper Alliance ▪ Alliance for Sustainability ▪ Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics ▪ American Academy of Pediatrics, District II ▪ American Academy of Pediatrics, NY Chapter 2 ▪ American Academy of Pediatrics, NY Chapter 3 ▪ American Academy of Physician Assistants ▪ American Grassfed Association ▪ American Nurses Association ▪ American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ▪ Animal Welfare Approved ▪ Arkansas Nature Alliance ▪ Blue Heron Environmental Network Inc. ▪ Breast Cancer Fund ▪ Butte Environmental Council ▪ California Public Health Association, North ▪ Catholic Healthcare West ▪ Chicago Physicians for Social Responsibility ▪ Citizen Action of Wisconsin ▪ Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana ▪ Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future ▪ Citizens for Sludge-free Land ▪ Coast Action Group ▪ Colorado Academy of Family Physicians ▪ Consumers Union ▪ Earth Day Coalition, Cleaveland ▪ Endangered Habitats League ▪ Fair Food ▪ Farms Without Harm ▪ Farmworker Justice ▪ Food & Water Watch ▪ Food Democracy Now! ▪ Friends of the Earth ▪ Georgia AIDS Coalition ▪ Grass-roots ▪ Halifax River Audubon ▪ Humane Farming Association ▪ Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association ▪ Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water ▪ Infectious Disease Association of California ▪ Iowa Association of Water Agencies ▪ Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement ▪ Iowa Environmental Council ▪ Iowa Farmers Union ▪ Izaak Walton League of America, Midwest ▪ Kentucky Resources Council ▪ Klamath Forest Alliance ▪ Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association ▪ Maine Public Health Association ▪ Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition ▪ Michigan Public Health Association ▪ Minnesota Citizens Organized Acting Together ▪ Montana Public Health Association ▪ National Anti-Vivisection Society ▪ National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association ▪ National Organic Coalition ▪ National Organization for Rare Disorders ▪ Naturesource Communications ▪ Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility United Church of Christ ▪ New Mexico Environmental Law Center ▪ North Carolina Association of Pharmacists ▪ Northeast Organic Farming Association - Interstate Council ▪ Northeast Organic Farming Association - Massachusetts ▪ NY/NJ Environmental Watch ▪ Occidental Arts & Ecology Center ▪ Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association ▪ Ohio Environmental Council ▪ Ohio Nurses Association ▪ Ohio River Foundation ▪ Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics ▪ Oregon Pediatric Society ▪ Organic Consumers Association ▪ Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners ▪ Pennsylvania Farmers Union ▪ Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, Environmental Health Task Force ▪ Pew Campaign on Human Health & Industrial Farming ▪ Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles ▪ Preserve Wild Santee ▪ Protect Our Earth's Treasures ▪ Rivers Unlimited ▪ Rural Advancement Foundation International, USA ▪ Safe Food & Fertilizer ▪ San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility ▪ San Francisco Medical Society ▪ South Carolina Nurses Association ▪ Southwest Environmental Center ▪ Stonyfield Farm, Inc. ▪ Sustain LA ▪ Sustainable Earth ▪ The Cornucopia Institute ▪ The Minnesota Project ▪ The Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists ▪ Trust for America's Health ▪ Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee ▪ US Environmental Watch ▪ Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network ▪ Western Nebraska Resources Council ▪ Wisconsin Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics ▪ Women's Environmental Institute ▪ Women's Health & Environmental Network

House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, March 19, 2010

Antibiotic-resistant infections have been identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of the top public health challenges in the United States. Massive use of medically important antibiotics like penicillin and tetracycline in food animal production is a significant contributor to this problem.[1] Antibiotic-resistant pathogens, which are found in and on food animals, can be transferred to humans though several pathways, including handling of farm animals[2], movement through ground and surface water, and most commonly on contaminated food.[3] Animal food products can become contaminated during slaughter and processing and food and crops can become contaminated with resistant bacteria in the field or during food processing. Infections caused by foodborne pathogens are more severe and more costly to treat than those caused by susceptible bacteria. The existence of resistant bacteria also means that more cases of infection will occur than would otherwise be the case.[4]

As recently reported in *The New York Times*, some infections caused by resistant bacteria now cannot be treated. There simply are no longer antibiotics that work. There are 5,815 hospitals in the U.S. registered with the American Hospital Association. The yearly cost associated with antibiotic-resistant patient infections in one U.S. hospital has been estimated at $13.5 million.[5]

Additional research and data are critical to understanding how to address the public health and food safety concerns associated with such uses. As you consider fiscal year 2011 appropriations, we would like to propose three appropriations that will help research, monitor, and find solutions to the problem of antibiotic resistance. The requests below are in priority order:

Request #1: $5 million of funds from the FDA's Transforming Food Safety Initiative to finish, update, and publish reviews on the safety of antimicrobials important in human medicine currently used for nontherapeutic purposes in food-producing animals for their role in the selection and dissemination of antibiotic-resistant foodborne pathogens.

Request #2: $3 million to fund Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria as authorized in Section 7521 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Request #3: $10 million for the FDA/USDA/CDC National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) in order to expand data collection by $3 million beyond current annual funding of approximately $7 million.

The rationale and background for each of these requests are detailed below.

Request #1: $5 million of funds from the FDA's Transforming Food Safety Initiative to finish, update, and publish reviews on the safety of antimicrobials important in human medicine currently used for nontherapeutic purposes in food-producing animals for their role in the selection and dissemination of antibiotic-resistant foodborne pathogens.

Requested accompanying report language: *In conducting these post-market safety reviews, the FDA shall use the same standards and methodology currently used in pre-market safety evaluations. The Committee directs the FDA to report the findings of the safety reviews to Congress within two years and to include a time line of any regulatory action steps needed to address drug uses found not to be safe. Congress directs the FDA immediately to report to Congress on any post-market safety reviews of animal antimicrobials already completed, but not yet made public.*

Background: The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine is responsible for reviewing the safety of animal drugs, including antibiotics, and has the authority to approve, withdraw, or restrict drugs based on their safety. Since 2003, the FDA has required that the pre-approval safety review for all new antibiotic veterinary drugs include an evaluation of the likelihood that the proposed drug use in animals will lead to resistant infections in humans.

Because almost all antibiotics being used for growth promotion and other nontherapeutic purposes in livestock production were approved by the FDA before 2003, most have either not undergone reviews with respect to antibiotic resistance or have undergone reviews that are inconsistent with current standards. In order to ensure that these drugs meet current safety standards, it is now critical to conduct post-market safety reviews of those antibiotic classes important to human medicine that are also being used for routine nontherapeutic purposes in animal agriculture.

Seven classes of antibiotics considered by the FDA to be either critically or highly important for therapy of infectious diseases in humans are used for nontherapeutic purposes in livestock production. These are the penicillins, tetracyclines, macrolides, lincosamides, streptogramins, aminoglycosides, and sulfonamides. Nontherapeutic uses of these drugs include growth promotion and routine disease prevention in healthy farm animals.

In 1977 the FDA proposed to withdraw its approval for nontherapeutic uses of both penicillin[6] and tetracycline[7] in food animals because of then new evidence showing that such uses undercut the efficacy of human drugs and as such were not safe for humans. The FDA took no final action on either of these 1977 proposals.

In the interim since the proposed cancellations, the European Union has banned use of all medically important antibiotics to accelerate the growth of food animals, and Australia, Japan, and New Zealand do not allow the use of penicillin and tetracycline as growth promoters.[8]

Citing its still-pending 1977 regulatory proposal, in May 2004 the FDA wrote to three manufacturers of penicillin for animal use – Alpharma Inc, Pennfield Oil Company, and Phibro Animal Health – to express its concerns about their products' "possible role in the emergence and dissemination of antimicrobial resistance" in humans.

In its July 2007 report on the FY 2008 appropriations bill, the House Committee on Appropriations expressed its concern that the use of antimicrobials in animals produced for food can also render less effective critically important human antibiotics, including those used to treat foodborne illnesses. The Committee was particularly concerned that the FDA had not finished its review of the safety for humans of using penicillin nontherapeutically in animal feed and directed the FDA to finish this review and make it public by June 30, 2008.

In September 2008 the FDA told Congress that it had completed its review of the "scientific literature for microbial food safety information for penicillin-containing products" and that it "continues to have safety concerns regarding the non-therapeutic use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals."[9] The FDA has not, however, either made public the results of its penicillin review or taken any action on the other medically important antibiotics that are used to accelerate the growth of food animals.

In FY2009 and FY2010, the FDA received a significant amount of new funding to address food safety. An additional $318.3 million and 718 new FTEs for the Transforming Food Safety initiative have been proposed for FY11. With the additional resources FDA should take a more aggressive approach to tackling the growing problem of antibiotic resistant foodborne pathogens.

Congress should ensure that the FDA finishes, updates, and publishes reviews on the safety of antimicrobials important in human medicine used for nontherapeutic purposes in food-producing animals.

Request #2: $3 million to fund Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria as authorized in Section 7521 of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Background: Antibiotic-resistant disease has been identified by the CDC as the number one public health challenge in the United States. Massive use of medically important antibiotics like penicillin and tetracycline in food animal production is a significant contributor to this problem. Research to develop animal production systems less dependent on antibiotics would help American producers address this crisis, add consumer value to their products, and position themselves advantageously in the global marketplace.

In 2004, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report highlighting the looming trade implications for countries that do not improve their agricultural antibiotic-use practices. GAO found that two of our major competitors in world meat markets (New Zealand and Denmark) have already banned the use of medically important antibiotics for growth promotion in food animals, as has the European Union. In addition, Japan, a major market for U.S. meat exports, is now reviewing such uses and considering a ban. The international trend is clear. To keep up and maintain market share, U.S. meat producers need to have the option to raise animals with less dependence on antibiotics.

The 2008 Farm Bill addressed this need by creating a new competitive grant program called Research and Education Grants for the Study of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. This program will provide the research needed to understand the phenomenon of antibiotic resistance and devise food animal production systems less dependent on antibiotic use. But, this important program will not get off the ground without funding. If U.S. meat producers hope to maintain a competitive advantage in the global market, funding is needed to support research to provide technical information on antibiotic-free production methods to all meat producers, and to enable those producers seeking to transition away from routine antibiotic use to do so smoothly. Accordingly, we urge the committee to appropriate $3 million to launch the grant program.

Request #3: $10 million for the FDA/USDA/CDC National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) in order to expand data collection by $3 million beyond current annual funding of approximately $7 million.

Systematic collection and analyses of data are essential to addressing the growing problem of antibiotic resistant disease. NARMS has been funded at about $7 million for the last several years and at that level has been unable to keep up with emerging new public health concerns, such as the Committee-recognized (in the report on the FY 2009 appropriations bill) threat of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ("MRSA"). Additional funding will enable increased surveillance, to include additional bacterial species and numbers and/or types of samples as well as allow NARMS researchers to utilize more sensitive methods (e.g., antibiotic-supplemented media and molecular assays). Furthermore, the additional funding should be used to initiate farm-level surveillance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

NARMS is a national public health surveillance system that tracks changes in the susceptibility of certain enteric bacteria to antimicrobial agents of human and veterinary medical importance.

The NARMS program was established in 1996 as a collaboration among three federal agencies: the FDA, the CDC, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NARMS is included in the FDA's budget, and the FDA then gives some of the appropriated funds to CDC and USDA.

NARMS also collaborates with scientists involved in antimicrobial resistance monitoring in other countries so that information can be shared on the global dimensions of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria. The NARMS program currently looks at only four pathogens: *Salmonella, Campylobacter, Escherichia coli,* and *Enterococci* on retail meats. However, the scientific literature on foodborne antibiotic-resistant bacteria shows that additional pathogens may be contaminating our food supply, such as *Staphylococcus aureus.*

As a public health monitoring system, the primary objectives of NARMS are to:

- Monitor trends in antimicrobial resistance among foodborne bacteria from humans (CDC), retail meats (FDA), and animals (USDA)
- Disseminate timely information on antimicrobial resistance to promote interventions that reduce resistance among foodborne bacteria
- Conduct research to better understand the emergence, persistence, and spread of antimicrobial resistance
- Assist the FDA in making decisions related to the approval of safe and effective antimicrobial drugs for animals

The NARMS program is important for identifying trends in antimicrobial resistance and for setting policy to address problems that are identified. For example, NARMS data have been used to support regulatory action such as the FDA's withdrawal in 2005 of the approval for fluoroquinolones in poultry and a proposed FDA ban in 2008 on the extralabel use of cephalosporins in food animals.

Thank you for your support of these priorities.

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[4] Anderson et al. 2003. "Public Health Consequences of Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Food Animals in the United States," *Microbial Drug Resistance* 9(4):373-379. whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1997/WHO_EMC_ZOO_97.4.pdf

[5] Roberts, 2009. "Hospital and Societal Costs of Antimicrobial-Resistant Infections in a Chicago Teaching Hospital: Implications for Antibiotic Stewardship," *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 49:1175–84.

[6] 42 Fed. Reg. 43770 (August 30, 1977).

[7] 42 Fed. Reg. 56264 (October 21, 1977).

[8] General Accounting Office, *Antibiotic Resistance, Federal Agencies Need to Better Focus Efforts to Address Risk to Humans from Antibiotic Use in Animals* (April 2004) at 44.

[9] September 19, 2008 letter from FDA to Senator Kennedy (at 8).

USA Rice FEDERATION
4301 North Fairfax Drive • Suite 425 • Arlington, VA 22203-1616 • (703) 236-2300 • FAX (703) 236-2301

March 19, 2010

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food & Drug Administration
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: USA Rice Federation's Fiscal Year 2011 Agriculture Appropriations

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Chairman Kohl:

This is to convey the rice industry's requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 funding for selected programs under the jurisdiction of your respective subcommittees. The USA Rice Federation appreciates your assistance in making this letter a part of the hearing record.

The USA Rice Federation is the global advocate for all segments of the U.S. rice industry with a mission to promote and protect the interests of producers, millers, merchants, and allied businesses. USA Rice members are active in all major rice-producing states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas. The USA Rice Producers' Group, the USA Rice Council, the USA Rice Millers' Association, and the USA Rice Merchants' Association are members of the USA Rice Federation.

USA Rice understands the budget constraints the subcommittees face when developing the FY 2011 appropriations bill. We appreciate your past support for initiatives that are critical to the rice industry and look forward to working with you to meet the continued needs of research, food aid, and market development in the future.

A healthy U.S. rice industry is also dependent on the program benefits offered by the Farm Bill. Therefore, we oppose any attempts to modify the support levels provided by this vital legislation through more restrictive payment limitations or other means and encourage the subcommittees and committees to resist such efforts during the appropriations process, especially given that the Farm Bill was reauthorized in June of 2008 and represents a contract with America's producers.

USA Rice FEDERATION
4301 North Fairfax Drive • Suite 425 • Arlington, VA 22203-1616 • (703) 236-2300 • FAX (703) 236-2301

A list of the programs the USA Rice Federation supports for appropriations in FY 2011 are as follows:

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Research and APHIS

The **Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center** (DBNRRC) conducts research to help keep the U.S. rice industry competitive in the global marketplace by assuring high yields, superior grain quality, pest resistance, and stress tolerance. We urge you to provide FY 2011 funding for rice at the DBNRRC at least at the FY 2010 approved level of $3,639,949. In addition, we strongly support the President's proposed $500,000 funding increase for rice-related climate-change research and $400,000 increase for rice-breeding research at the DBNRRC. We also urge funding a $1.3 million increase for the ARS facility at Stuttgart for research on diversified rice-farming techniques to help reduce water use by developing varieties that are more drought tolerant.

For **APHIS-Wildlife Services**, we encourage the subcommittees to fund the Louisiana blackbird control project at $150,000, which we strongly support. This program annually saves rice farmers in Southwest Louisiana over $4,000 per farm, or $2.9 million total.

Market Access

Exports are critical to the U.S. rice industry. Historically, 40-50 percent of annual U.S. rice production has been shipped overseas. Thus, building healthy export demand for U.S. rice is a high priority.

The **Foreign Market Development Program** allows USA Rice to focus on importer, foodservice, and other non-retail promotion activities around the world. This program should be fully funded for FY 2011 at the authorized level of $34.5 million.

The **Market Access Program** (MAP) allows USA Rice to concentrate on consumer promotion and other activities for market expansion around the world. This program should also be fully funded for FY 2011 at the authorized level of $200 million. USA Rice strongly opposes the President's proposed 20 percent reduction in MAP funding.

In addition, the **Foreign Agricultural Service** should be funded to the fullest degree possible to ensure adequate support for trade-policy initiatives and oversight of export programs. These programs are critical for the economic health of the U.S. rice industry.

Food Safety

Food safety, including the safety of imported food, is one of the national issues that deserves significantly more funding. The USA Rice Federation appreciates greatly the increased funding that Congress appropriated for the **Food and Drug Administration** in FY 2010 for food-safety purposes. We urge Congress to continue this funding direction by increasing the agency's FY 2011 appropriations for food-safety personnel, programs, and related technology, including continuing to ensure the safety of imported food.

Appropriations increases would allow the FDA to help reassure consumers and accelerate innovation in food-safety programs and related research and technology development. FDA would be able to administer food-safety inspections and other related activities more fully and effectively, speed up approvals for safe, new food technologies and products, and provide leadership in protecting the food supply from intentional domestic and foreign threats.

As importantly, USA Rice opposes the President's proposed food-safety-related user fees, including for food registration and inspection and export certificates. These public-safety activities should continue to be funded from annual appropriations.

Food Aid

We urge the subcommittees to fund **P.L. 480 Title I.** No Title I funding has been provided since FY 2006. At a minimum, FY 2011 funding should be the same as 2006. P.L. 480 Title 1 is our top food-aid priority and we support continued funding in order to meet international demand. Food-aid sales historically account for an important portion of U.S. rice exports.

For **P.L. 480 Title II,** we strongly support funding Title II up front at the fully-authorized $2.5 billion level, which would help to make possible satisfying the 2.5 million MT required by statute. We encourage the subcommittees to fund Title II at the higher level to ensure consistent tonnage amounts for the rice industry. We strongly oppose any shifting of Title II funds, which have traditionally been contained within USDA's budget. We believe all food-aid funds should continue to be used for food-aid purchases of rice and other commodities from only U.S. origin.

USA Rice supports continued funding at FY 2006 levels, at a minimum, for the **Food for Progress Program's** P.L. 480 Title I-sourced funding. For the program's Commodity Credit Corporation funding component, a minimum at USDA's estimated FY 2010 level of $150 million is requested. Funding for this program is important to improve food security for food-deficit nations.

The **McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program** is a proven success and it is important to provide steady, reliable funding for multi-year programming. USA Rice supports funding at the $300 million level for this education initiative because it efficiently delivers food to its targeted group, children, while also encouraging education, a primary stepping-stone for populations to improve economic conditions.

Other

Farm Service Agency - We encourage the subcommittees to provide adequate funding so the agency can deliver essential programs and services, including for improved computer hardware and software. The Agency has been hard hit by staff reductions and our members fear a reduction in service if sufficient funds are not allocated.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information about the programs we have listed. Additional background information is available for all of the programs we have referenced; however, we understand the volume of requests the subcommittees receive and have restricted our comments accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Reece Langley

Reece Langley
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member
Honorable Sam Brownback, Ranking Member

Nicole Vij
7813 South Valley Drive
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

March 17, 2010
Rosa DeLauro (CT), Chair
Subcommittee Clerk Room
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6016

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro,

After reviewing the fiscal year 2011 Budget for Food and Nutrition Service I have several recommendations for the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. Sadly, one in eight persons in the United States currently relies on Food Stamps. This staggering statistic serves to remind us that funding for nutrition and family services in our nation are vitally important. We must give the attention and federal funding needed to assistance programs such as SNAP and WIC. The recession has caused many state and local jurisdictions to cut the social safety nets that families rely on and the need for federal assistance has become increasingly crucial. In the state of Virginia for example, child meal programs have already been drastically cut and there are millions of dollars in proposed cuts to school breakfast programs. This seems counter productive when it has been proven that children who eat breakfast before school learn more, behave better, and are healthier than those who do not. Projected participation levels are only expected to rise due to the current economic climate so we must work towards expanding access to programs such as SNAP and WIC. We must do something to expand eligibility to these programs and ensure that our nation's citizens are healthy and receiving the best nutrition information. This would also require the subcommittee to pay closer attention to the ability of American families to access high quality, science-based health and nutrition information. If we are able to keep people well informed and recommend the highest quality dietary information we can avoid the high instances of obesity, malnutrition, and chronic illnesses that we see now.

The President's budget for fiscal year 2011 for FNCS requests $96 billion in budget authority and a $10 billion increase over 10 years for Child Nutrition reauthorization. This reflects his commitment to combating poor nutrition among the nation's children and low-income families. It also reflects his support of efforts aimed at delivering science-based nutrition information to our citizens in order to promote healthy lifestyles. I would like to offer my support of these budget requests as I see it necessary for the well being of the children and families who need our help to stay healthy. This budget request will ensure that our nutrition assistance programs continue to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and will be able to fully fund increased participation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole Vij

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

Jonathan Pyatskowit, President
P.O Box 910, Keshena, Wisconsin 54135 (715) 799-4937

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Forest County Potawatomi Community

Ho-Chunk Nation

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Community

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

FY 2011 Testimony
United State House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

by

Jonathan Pyatskowit, President
Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC)

Date: March 2010

Agency Involved: USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

Summary of FY 2011 Testimony:

Restore $300,000 for the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC): WTCAC requests Congress restore $300,000 in funding eliminated by the Bush Administration.

Re-affirm support for local decision making and government-to-government relationships with Tribal government: The success of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) on Wisconsin Reservations is due in large part to a program structure that stresses local decision making.

Maintain EQIP and WHIP program funding: WTCAC supports Congress providing $1.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and $85 million for Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill.

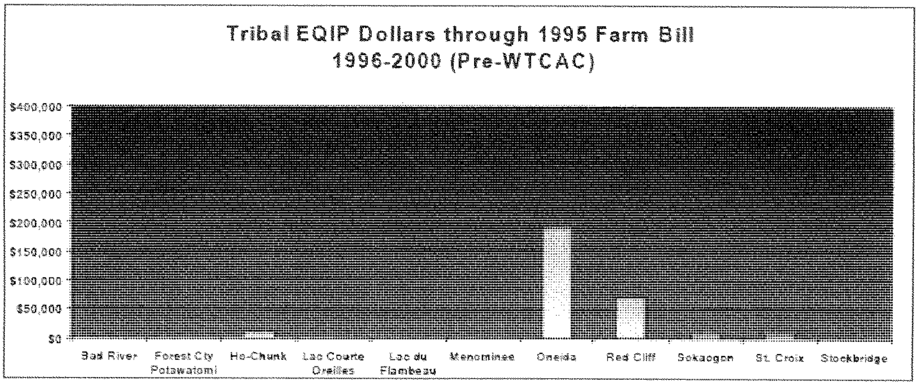
Disclosure of USDA Grants Contracted: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee (WTCAC) is an intertribal organization which, under the direction of its member tribes, was established in partnership with USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Members of WTCAC include Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, Menominee Nation, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Band, St. Croix Chippewa Indians, and Stockbridge - Munsee Tribe of Wisconsin. Congress provided an appropriation of $300,000 in FY 2005 and $300,000 in FY 2006 to support WTCAC. These funds were contracted from the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wisconsin office.

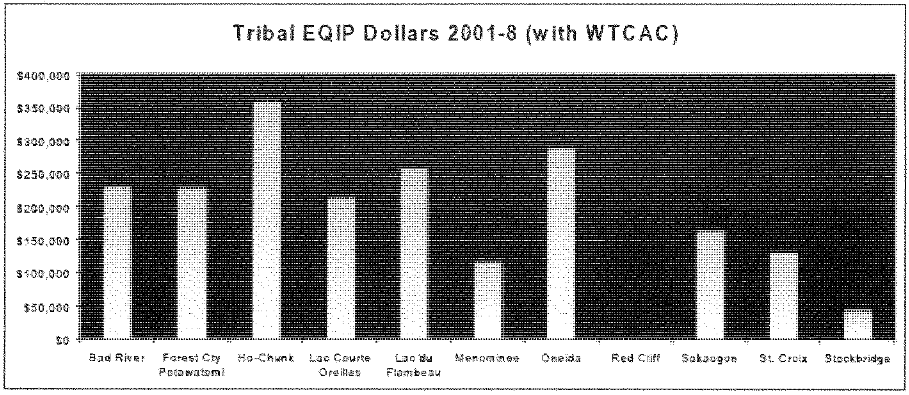
Background: The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council was the first such organization formed in the country. The WTCAC organization is comprised of the 11 Native American Tribes of Wisconsin and it provides a forum for the tribes to identify and solve natural resources issues on tribal lands. The Council gives a strong voice to tribes on conservation issues at the state and national level. Through a strong partnership with the NRCS the Council reviews and recommends proposes for conservation projects from tribes under the existing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils were authorized in the 1995 Farm Bill as advisory bodies to the NRCS and all of USDA on tribal issues and ensures USDA programs work effectively on Reservation lands.

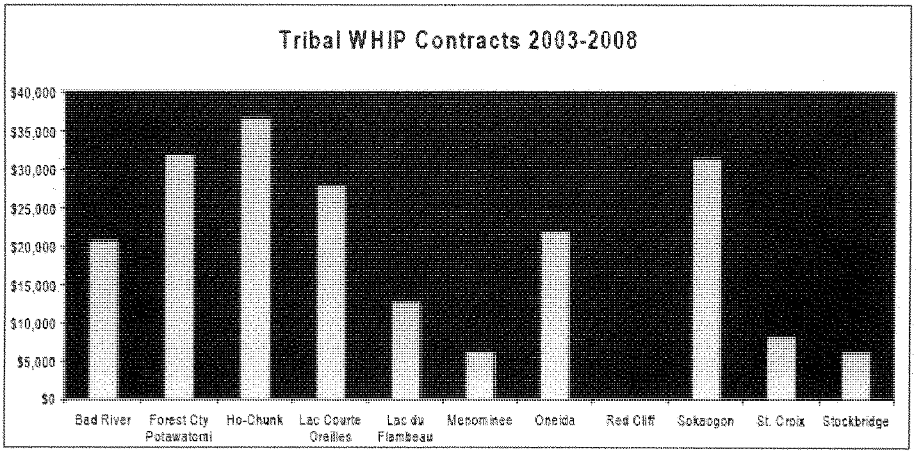
Some of the roles of the WTCAC are:

- to advise USDA and the NRCS on better ways to meet tribal needs
- to identify natural resource issues affecting tribal lands or ways of life
- to communicate tribal conservation needs to legislators
- to provide input on pending conservation legislation and policy
- to build strong communities through healthy natural resources, and
- to protect pristine areas and restore degraded resources

A Record of Success: Since the inception of WTCAC, tribal participation and entry into the EQIP and WHIP program has increased significantly. Through support from Wisconsin's State Conservationist Pat Leavenworth, the council has developed a relationship that allowed it to access EQIP and WHIP programs more effectively. For example, pre-WTCAC (1996-2000) tribes used approximately $270,000 dollars from the 1995 Farm Bill EQIP appropriations. From 2001-2008 tribal participation in the EQIP program has increased to approximately $2 million. This same success has been documented in tribes' ability to effectively access funding from the WHIP program enabling them to protect and rehabilitate wildlife on reservation lands. The Council was able to develop and recommend practices that were important to tribes and get them adopted by NRCS for use and inclusion under the program rules. This allowed tribes to access the programs that they weren't able to in the past, since much of the NRCS practices are geared towards traditional agriculture. WTCAC was able to help NRCS understand that tribes utilize their lands in a non-traditional agricultural ways such as sustained yield forestry and subsistence gathering. By adapting practices that help them improve these resources the tribes are moving in a direction that will help them meet the vision and mission of WTCAC. The three graphs provided on the following pages clearly affirm the success of the WTCAC/NRCS partnership in bringing EQIP and WHIP projects to reservation communities.







Funding provided to WTCAC in the past allowed them to build a council to provide the tribes a means to voice tribal needs regarding NRCS programs and policies. WTCAC was able meet on a regular basis with NRCS to raise issues and concerns and develop ways to more effectively and efficiently access the EQIP and WHIP programs. Funding was also used by WTCAC to grant tribal projects that were used to demonstrate practices and costs that were then subsequently recommended to the state conservationist and adopted for use by all the tribes under the program rules. Some of the uniqueness of tribes can be demonstrated by their development of practices that pertain to wild rice, a very important subsistence food source that the tribes managed but were not eligible under existing program rules. WTCAC was able to get wild rice added as a tribal agricultural crop and developed practices and cost rates that allow the tribes to manage this food source on both tribal lands and within the ceded territories. Funding was also used for educational purposes such as supporting an Indigenous farming conference and sending Tribal Natural Resource Staff to the American Indian Alaska Natives Employee Association training conference to receive additional training on USDA programs and their applicability to Tribal Nations.

Direct Benefits to Reservation Communities: The WTCAC has enabled tribes in Wisconsin to undertake a number of projects that protect the fish, plant, soil and wildlife resources on their reservations through NRCS programs including:

- Controlling Non-native Plant Species in the Kakagon Sloughs and protecting ground water resources by decommissioning abandoned wells with bentonite on the Bad River Reservation,
- Forest County Potawatomi's Swan Lake Habitat Improvement and Restoration Project,
- Lac Courte Oreilles use of tree revetments on the Chippewa Flowage to protect shorelines that experience significant water level fluctuations,
- Lac du Flambeau's use of controlled burns to improve habitat on 8000 acres of wetland habitat adjacent to the 4000 acre DNR-managed Powell Marsh,

- Red Cliff's Coaster Brook Trout Restoration,
- Oneida's groundwater protection program including manure pits and vegetative waterways to properly protect the groundwater from contamination,
- wetland restoration and improvement of 30 acres of wild rice beds in Rice Lake on the Mole Lake Reservation,
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community's fish passage and cold water habitat protection project, and
- St. Croix Chippewa's restoring Pine Barrens and Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat.

A Successful Partnership is at Risk: Unfortunately this success is at risk. Funding to continue operation of the Wisconsin Conservation Advisory Council has been exhausted. If Congress fails to restore $300,000 in funding to continue WTCAC's mission, it is unlikely Wisconsin Tribes will be able to effectively make federal conservation programs work on Tribal Lands. The WTCAC organization has been funded by Congress since 2001 is looking for continued support to help meet its vision to make natural resources of reservations in Wisconsin world renowned while being ecologically sustainable while meeting the needs of our communities. WTCAC is requesting $300,000 to operate at its current capacity for the next three years by funding: 1) $60,000 to support interagency meeting costs of the organization, 2) $200,000 to fund special projects that help the NRCS develop new conservation practices, biological and engineering standards, and cost share rates that meet the resource protection and rehabilitation needs of tribes across the state of Wisconsin, and 3) $40,000 for educational opportunities to support conferences and internships aimed at meeting Tribal and USDA staff recruitment diversity goals.

Conclusion: I would like to thank your past support of our organization and I hope that your future support of our organization will help the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council meet the mission and vision of creating world renowned natural resources that support Wisconsin's Tribal needs.

State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 4-E CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002
(307) 777-7354 FAX (307) 777-5451
ptyrre@seo.wyo.gov

DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairman
The Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attention: Outside Witness Testimony

Re: Support for Designation to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program of 2.5 per centum of the Total Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funding Recommended in the President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Dear Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

This letter is sent in support of the designation of 2.5 percent of the fiscal year 2010 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding for the Department of Agriculture's Colorado River Salinity Control (CRSC) Program. With the enactment of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA, which was designated Public Law 104-127), the USDA's CRSC Program is a component program within EQIP. Wyoming views the inclusion of the CRSC Program in EQIP as a direct recognition on the part of Congress of the Federal commitment to maintenance of the water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River. The vital role of the Department of Agriculture in meeting that commitment is apparent pursuant to the law, as well as based on the past 25 years we have observed and encouraged Agriculture's efforts effectively reducing salt loading into the Colorado River system through proven and cost-effective irrigation water application and management practices. Each of the seven Colorado River Basin States, acting collectively through the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, have actively assisted the U.S. Department of Agriculture in implementing its unique, collaborative and important program.

Established in 1973, the seven-state Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum coordinates with the Federal Government on the maintenance of the basin-wide Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System. The Forum is composed of gubernatorial representatives and serves as a liaison between the seven States and the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Forum advises the Federal agencies on the progress of efforts to control the salinity of the Colorado River. Its annual funding recommendation process includes suggesting to the Department of Agriculture the amount the Forum believes USDA should be expending in the subsequent two years for its on-farm CRSC Program. Overall, the combined efforts of the Basin States, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Agriculture have resulted in one of the nation's most successful non-point source control programs.

The Colorado River provides municipal and industrial water for nearly 30 million people and irrigation water to approximately four million acres of land in the United States. The River is also the water source for some 2.5 million people and 500,000 acres in Mexico. Limitations on users' abilities to make the greatest use of that water supply due to the River's high concentration of total dissolved solids (e.g., the water's salinity concentration) remains a major issue and continuing concern in both the United States and Mexico. The salinity concentration in the available water supply especially affects agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users. While economic detriments and damages in Mexico are unquantified, the Bureau of Reclamation presently estimates direct and computable salinity-related damages in the USA amount to $376 million per year.

At its recent October 2009 meeting, the Forum recommended that the USDA CRSC Program expend 2.5 percent of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program funding. In the Forum's judgment, this amount of funding is necessary to implement one of the most successful Federal/State cooperative non-point source pollution control programs in the United States. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council has taken the position that the funding for the salinity control program should not be below $20 million per year. The amount of State and local cost-sharing that can be applied in each given fiscal year is driven by the amount of federal appropriations and the EQIP allocation.

The State of Wyoming greatly appreciates the Subcommittee's support of the Colorado River Salinity Control Program in past years. We continue to believe this important basin-wide water quality improvement program merits support by your Subcommittee. We request that your Subcommittee direct the allocation of 2.5 percent of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding for the USDA's CRSC Program during fiscal year 2011. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this statement and its inclusion in the formal record for fiscal year 2011 appropriations.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/	/s/
Patrick T. Tyrrell Wyoming State Engineer Chairman, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum	Dan S. Budd Interstate Stream Commissioner Member, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

PTT:DSB:js

cc: Representative Cynthia Lummis
John Wagner, Wyoming Member, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum
Jack A. Barnett, Executive Director, Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

LIST OF WRITTEN TESTIMONIES FROM

# REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS
for submission to
U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES
March, 2010

FROM THE WESTERN REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER:

Ken Beer
The Fishery, Inc.
11583 Valensin Road
Galt, California 95632
Telephone: 916-687-7475

Jeff Hetrick, Director
Alaska Shellfish Institute
P.O. Box 369
Seward, Alaska 99664
Telephone: 907-288-3667

Theodore J. Smith
Smith Aquatic Consulting
Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus
1011 Main Street
Alamosa, Colorado 81101
Telephone: 719-589-7049

FROM THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER:

Joey Lowery, President
Catfish Farmers of America
1100 Highway 81 East, Suite 202
Indianola, Mississippi 38751
Telephone: 501-454-1810

Mitt Walker, Director
Alabama Catfish Producers
P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, Alabama 36191
Telephone: 334-613-4757

Charles M. Collins
Executive Director
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
2705 Michelle Drive
Mena, Arkansas 71953
Telephone: 870-672-1716

Robert L. (Shorty) Jones
AquaCenter
1017 Greenfield Road
Glen Allan, Mississippi 38744
Telephone: 662-839-5555

FROM THE CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE:

Sam Moku
Home Ownership Assistance Program (DOHH)
P.O. Box 1879
Honolulu, HI 96805
808-620-9514

John Austin
Keawanui Farms
HC 1-479
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
808-558-8931

Aisek Artui
Pakin Community Association
c/o Sokehs Municipal Government
P.O. Box 2247
Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
No direct phone number

FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER:

William M. West, President
Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC
N5811 Twelve Corners Road
Black Creek, WI 54106
Telephone: 920-730-0684
Email: blueirisenv@milwpc.com

James Blankman
Aquatic Resource Management
3035 400th Street
Manning, Iowa 51455
Telephone: 712-653-9403
Email: blankman@pionet.net

Mr. Robert Calala
Calala's Water Haven, Inc.
421 State Route 60
New London, Ohio 44851
Telephone: 419-929-8052
Email: calala@earthlink.net

Curtis Harrison, Co-owner/Operator
Harrison Fish Farm, Inc.
Route 2, Box 61
Hurdland, Missouri 63547-9718
Telephone: 660-423-5482
Email: curtis@harrisonfisheries.com

FROM THE NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER:

Ms. Kathy Rhodes
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association
1623 Whitesville Road
Palms River, NJ 0875
Telephone: 203-623-2819 (cell)
Email: ecsga@optonline.net

Michael Timmons
J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise
Cornell University
Biological and Environmental Engineering Department
302 Riley-Robb Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
Telephone: 607-255-1630
Email: mbt3@cornell.edu

George Nardi
GreatBay Aquaculture, LLC
153 Gosling Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Telephone: 603-430-8057
Cell: 603-498-1715
Email: gnardi@greatbayaquaculture.com

THE FISHERY

Testimony Submitted to

U.S. House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration And Related Agencies

Concerning

Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers

Prepared Statement by

Kenneth Beer
President, The Fishery, Inc.
11583 Valensin Road
Galt, California 95632

February 2010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Regional Aquaculture Centers. I am president of The Fishery, Inc., and for the last 35 years I have been a commercial producer of farmed fish. I am writing to urge full funding of the five Regional Aquaculture Centers administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the authorization level of $7.5 million.

During my career I have seen an industry emerge from its infancy. Thirty-five years ago there was limited production of trout, catfish, and salmon. Other species such as shrimp, sturgeon, bass, tilapia, and many others, which are now commonly farmed, were only available from wild capture fisheries, if at all. I take pride in the advancements that my industry, and many of my colleagues, have achieved. However, I am greatly concerned that the United States is losing momentum in its historic leadership in many sectors of aquaculture production and technology to other countries. The U.S. imports

11583 Valensin Road • Galt, California 95632
Phone (916) 687-7475 • Fax (916) 687-8823

an increasing amount of seafood each year, worldwide aquaculture production is rising, yet US aquaculture production is actually declining. However, recent developments have shown that a locally produced food industry is safer and actually desired by the American consumer. We have the technology, expertise, natural resources, and agricultural tradition, to sustainably supply our own seafood, if we only have the will.

For over 20 years I have been involved, in some capacity, with the Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC), either as an industry representative to the organization or as a participant on a particular project. WRAC is unique in its ability to combine the talents of academic and governmental experts with industry members to solve specific problems. The process of annually convening top scientific and industry practitioners throughout the region ensures that only pressing topical issues receive support. WRAC- funded projects for example, helped develop techniques which jump-started sturgeon culture in Idaho and California, and which have now been adopted worldwide. Other projects have been of great benefit to other aquaculture sectors such as shellfish, striped bass, trout, and others.

For over 20 years the Regional Aquaculture Centers have been funded at the same level, and have never been fully funded at the authorized level of $7.5 million. I am sure that there are many competing worthwhile projects also requesting funding, and choices, particularly in today's economy, are difficult. From my personal experience, however, funding for RAC has been a great investment. RAC research has produced insights, which have directly led to development of aquaculture farms and increased seafood production. They have been a great success, despite their limited funding. An increase of funding to $7.5 million for all five Centers covering the entire nation, is a small investment at a critical time for our industry.

Sincerely,

Ken Beer
President, The Fishery, Inc.

Pursuant to Disclosure Rules, I hereby note that neither I nor The Fishery, Inc. have received federal grant monies regarding aquaculture development or enhancement.

Kenneth E. Beer

11583 Valensin Road
Galt, California 95632

Phone: 916 687 7475 Phone (cell) 916 599 2758 FAX 916 687 8823
e-mail: Beerfishery@yahoo.com

Personal: Born Long Beach, California September 21, 1953

Education: M.S. Ecology, University of California, Davis 1981
(Thesis: Embryonic and Larval Development of White Sturgeon)
B.S. Forest Biology, University of Washington, 1975

Employment Summary:
1983 to present, The Fishery, Inc.
President and General Manager
1991 to 1996: Department of Animal Science, U.C. Davis
Lecturer: Animal Science 118, Fish Production
1976 to 1983, Elk Grove-Florin Catfish Farm
Manager

Specific Experience Areas:
Development and operation of commercial fish farms. Experience in hatchery production, grow-out and sales of numerous warm water species, including striped bass, channel catfish, largemouth bass, white sturgeon, common carp, goldfish, and baitfish.

Organizations:
California Aquaculture Association, Director 1981 – 1992, President, Chairman of the Board 1987-1988
California Farm Bureau, Sacramento County, Director 1985-1989
WRAC, Industry Representative, 1990 – 2000, 2009-Current
Sacramento County South Area Water Council, Member 2007 - Present

Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery
PO Box 369
Seward, AK 99664
907 224-5181 224-5282 fax
jjh@seward.net

Testimony Submitted to

U.S House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration And Related Agencies

February 2010

Concerning

Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers

Prepared Statement By

Jeff Hetrick, Director
Alaska Shellfish Institute
P.O. Box 369
Seward, Alaska 99664

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: My name is Jeff Hetrick. I am writing in support of continued and increased support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), a program of the USDA.

I am the Director of the Alaska Shellfish Institute and Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery located in Seward, Alaska. We raise shellfish such as oysters, cockles and geoduck clams for the private aquatic farm industry. We also raise razor clams and littleneck clams for personal use and subsistence fisheries. In addition we have recently developed techniques for raising the purple-hinge rock scallop and sea cucumbers and, most excitingly, blue and red king crab.

I have been involved with the aquaculture industry in Alaska for 26 years starting with the hatchery development and enhancement projects with Pacific salmon. I have owned and operated my own oyster farm and have been involved with all facets of developing the shellfish mariculture industry through drafting legislation as President of the Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association, representing Alaska on the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association and representing WRAC as an Industry Advisory Council Representative, its Chairman and Executive Committee member.

I am writing in support of continued and increased support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers. I am most familiar with the Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC) and the projects that have been funded over the past ten years of my involvement. WRAC is set up as an unusual case where the industry is the driver for the process. Priorities are determined by members from represented states, passed on to researchers and the results of the research transmitted directly back to the industry for application. The process is highly responsive and efficient with a long list of success stories directly benefiting the aquaculture industry in the western region.

Unfortunately, the RACs have not been funded at their authorized level and have actually remained even-funded for many years. At a time when worldwide capture fisheries are failing to keep up with consumption, the worldwide aquaculture production is expanding logarithmically to meet the incredible demand. However, in contrast to the aquaculture industry outside of the U.S., the U.S. contribution has become insignificant. It is important that the U.S. not continue to fall behind worldwide efforts.

The health benefits of eating more seafood is indisputable and becoming more critical to our nation's individual and collective health. Funding the RACs to their authorized levels should assist the U.S. aquaculture industry in reducing the trade imbalance for imported seafood and expand domestic and international markets for the species native to North America.

Again, I encourage you to fund the RACs to their full level.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick
Director
Alaska Shellfish Institute

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of representatives I hereby provide information regarding federal grant monies received. The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery has received federal funding from NOAA Aquaculture, the American Native Administration and NMFS Nearshore program.

James "Jeff" Hetrick
P.O. Box 369
Seward, Alaska 99664
(907) 288 3667
jjh@seward.net

Profile

Over 25 years experience in Alaskan salmon and shellfish culture and enhancement and marine resource development specializing in remote native villages and rural area.
Excellent communication, computer, grant writing and organizational and project management skills.

Education

Bachelor of Science- Biological Science/Fisheries 1980
University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
Master of Business Administration
Portland State University, Portland, Oregon
California Coast University, California 1995

Relevant Experience and Accomplishments

Shellfish Aquaculture

Director of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery and Mariculture Technical Center in Seward, Alaska. Active in developing the shellfish aquatic farm industry in Alaska. Helped author the Aquatic Farm Act (1988) and developed subsequent regulations and policies for State and Federal agencies to manage aquatic farm industry. Owner operator of Alaska Aquafarms Inc, oyster farm in Prince William Sound.

Resource Development

Presently working on Razor clam restoration project for the Native Village of Eyak. Completed a five-year Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration project that reintroduced native littleneck clams near Tatitlek, Port Graham and Nanwalek. Villagers are now harvesting clams and the project is expanding to 5 additional villages.

Economic Development

Assisted in developing oyster culture operations in the native villages of Tatitlek, Chenega Bay and Eyak. Involved with Economic Development on the Kenai Peninsula and community of Moose Pass.

Salmon Aquaculture, Hatchery Management and Operations

Successfully developed sockeye salmon pathology protocols to combat IHN Virus enabling the mass production of sockeye salmon smolt. Pioneered age zero smolt technology and developed production scale thermal marking program.

Business Management

Own and operate several businesses including Spruce Moose Bed and Breakfast and Alaska Aquafarms, one of Alaska's first shellfish farms. Part owner of JJM Investments LTD, a real estate investment firm.

Employment History

2001- Present **Director Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery**
Director of Alaska's only shellfish hatchery in Seward. Developing new species for enhancement and the shellfish aquatic farm industry. Most recently developed production techniques for

1992-Present **Mariculture Consultant- Chugach Regional Resources Commission- (CRRC)**
Developed mariculture operations for CRRC, including Tatitlek Village Oyster Farm, Chenega Bay Shellfish Nursery, Quteckak Pilot Shellfish Hatchery and Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Clam Enhancement Project. The projects included complete development from grant writing and administration, permitting, NEPA documents, project implementation, training and management of personnel, budgeting, accounting and reporting. Authored and presented several articles and scientific papers.

Presently working on natural resource management programs and shellfish enhancement projects for native village councils in South-central Alaska and native participation in the EVOS GEM project.

1988-2000 **Hatchery Manager**
Managed Trail Lakes Hatchery for Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, a sockeye and coho salmon facility with an annual production of 20 million salmon. Responsible for management of 4 permanent staff, up to 10 seasonal employees and a large operating and capital budget.

1980-1988 **Assistant Hatchery Manager**. Assisted in managing and developing facilities for Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation.

Affiliations /Memberships

Professional
Western Regional Aquaculture Center – Executive Board Member
Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association - Executive Committee
National Aquaculture Association- Board Member
American Fisheries Society
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association- Board Member
Alaska Department of Fish Game –Seward Advisory Group
Moose Pass Planning Commission
Resource Conservation and Development Representative

Testimony Submitted to

U.S. HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Prepared Statement By

THEODORE J. SMITH
SMITH AQUATIC CONSULTING
&
TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, VALLEY CAMPUS
1011 MAIN STREET
ALAMOSA, COLORADO 81101

MARCH 2010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Subcommittee:

My name is Theodore James Smith. It is my honor to provide testimony before your subcommittee in support of the Regional Aquaculture Centers (RACs) - administered by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The mission of the national RAC program is ***"to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and education to enhance viable and profitable US aquaculture production for the benefit of consumers, producers, service industries, and the American economy"***. Since the inception of the RAC program in 1987, the industry-driven research, education and extension activities generated through the RACs have proven invaluable to the US Aquaculture Industry as a whole. However, because the yearly appropriations have been essentially flat funded and when translated into 1987 dollars, this funding has actually shown a significant decline. I submit this testimony to urge your support for full funding of the RACs at the authorized level of $7.5 million.

I have been employed within the US Aquaculture Industry as a food fish producer, aquaculture consultant and educator for 26 years now. I am currently the Director and Professor of the Aquaculture Technician Program at Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus. Founded in 1925, TSJC is the oldest junior college in the Great State of Colorado. We are proud of the work we're doing at Trinidad State Junior College educating skilled technicians to work in the regional and national aquaculture industry. Additionally, since 2003 I have served as a State Representative on the Board of Directors of the National Aquaculture Association. Also, since 1998 I have served as a member of the Industry Advisory Council for the **Western Regional Aquaculture Center** and as the Treasurer and Past-President of the Colorado Aquaculture Association since 1992.

A recent report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization states the global aquaculture industry's current growth rate of 6% is too slow to make up for the shortfall caused by the decline in global capture fisheries and by the worldwide increase in demand for seafood. Thus, at a time when other industries are stagnant, declining, or failing, aquaculture continues to grow and needs to grow faster! This fact alone warrants your support for full funding of the RACs at the authorized level of $7.5 million. Also, if the United States is to remain strong and competitive within this global growth industry we must invest more into Aquaculture here at home.

As fellow Americans, we are all painfully aware of the tough economic challenges we currently face. It is my firm belief that if we are to strengthen our domestic economy, if we are to maintain our competitive edge as an economic superpower, and if we are to cut our dependence on foreign oil by the development of alternative energy (i.e. biodiesel from aquatic microalgae), then we as a Nation will be required to invest more of our federal tax dollars into sustainable industries like Aquaculture. Aquaculture is one specific area where the ***green collar workforce*** jobs of tomorrow will take place. Aquaculture is exactly the type of sustainable industry that will help to jumpstart the American economy once again.

Since the highly successful RAC program with its industry-driven research and outreach projects actually contributes economic impacts back to the national aquaculture industry far exceeding its budgetary investment, I urgently ask you to support the five Regional Aquaculture Centers at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Regional Aquaculture Centers.

Sincerely,
Theodore J. Smith
Director & Professor of Aquaculture
Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of House of representatives I hereby provide information regarding federal grant monies I have received for the following:

2007 – 2009 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program, Award Number: 2007-38414-18092, Proposal Number: 2007-02079 *"Trinidad State Junior College Fish Processing Project"*.

2004 – 2006 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 04-38422-14640, Proposal Number: 2004-03814 *"Aquaculture Education: Creating Career Pathways and Innovative Training for Hispanics"*.

1999 - 2001 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 99-38422-8031, Proposal Number: 1999-04350 *"21st Century Farmer through High Tech/High Touch Innovative Training"*.

1997 – 1999 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 97-38422-4592, Proposal Number: 1997-04189 *"High Desert Aquaculture Using Aquifers, High Technology, and Innovative Training"*.

Theodore James Smith
8351 South River Road
Alamosa, Colorado 81101
(719) 589-5681 or (719) 589-7049
Fax 719-589-7005
Ted.smith@trinidadstate.edu

Education & Certifications

1996 - 2013 **Colorado State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education**
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado
Vocational Teaching Credential, Specific program area in Aquaculture

1980 - 1984 **Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado**
Bachelor of Science Degree
Major in Fishery Biology with concentration in Aquaculture

2008 **Washington State University, Warm Springs, Oregon**
HACCP Training & Certification in seafood industry standards

Professional Experience

Feb. 1996- Present **Director/ Professor of Aquaculture Technician Program**
Trinidad State Junior College, Valley Campus, Alamosa, Colorado

July 1992 - Sept. 1995 **General Manager**
Faucette & Smith Fish Company, (currently, Colorado Catch, LLC), Sanford, Colorado

Oct. 1989 - July 1992 **Manager of Fish Production/Chief Biologist**
Aquafarm Associates of Colorado, Inc., Denver, Colorado

Sept. 1985 - Oct. 1989 **Facility Manager**
Aquatic Systems, Inc., (currently, KENT Sea Tech Corp.), San Diego, California

1984 -1985 **Fish Culturist**
Colorado Division of Wildlife, Rifle Falls Hatchery & Rearing Unit, Rifle, Colorado

Elected Positions, Committees, and Awards

2009 Faculty of the Year, Trinidad State Junior College-Valley Campus, **Full-time Faculty**

2006 Colorado Community College System Outstanding Program of the Year

1992 - Present Colorado Aquaculture Association, **Treasurer & Past President**

1995 - 2006 Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Aquaculture Board, **Chair**
2003 – Present National Aquaculture Association, State Association Board Seat, **Director**
1998 - Present Western Regional Aquaculture Center, Industry Advisory Council, **Member**
1999 - 2003 Colorado Community College System, Agriculture Tech Prep Consortium, **Member**
2002 Faculty of the Year, Trinidad State Junior College-Valley Campus, **Full-time Faculty**
2000 United States Dept. Agriculture-Hispanic Serving Institutions Fellows Program, **Fellow**

Peer Review Publications

Zuckerman, Laurence D., Theodore J. Smith, and Robert J. Benke. Hybridization Between *Catostommus plebeius* and *C. commersoni* in the Rio Grande Basin, Colorado. Abstracts of the Combined Meetings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 32nd Annual Meeting of the Herpetologists' League and the 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 28 July-3 August 1984.

Grant History

2007 – 2009 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants Program, Award Number: 2007-38414-18092, Proposal Number: 2007-02079
"Trinidad State Junior College Fish Processing Project", **Project Director.**

2004 – 2006 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 04-38422-14640, Proposal Number: 2004-03814
"*Aquaculture Education: Creating Career Pathways and Innovative Training for Hispanics*", **Project Director.**

1999 - 2001 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 99-38422-8031, Proposal Number: 1999-04350
"21st Century Farmer through High Tech/High Touch Innovative Training", **Senior Associate.**

1997 – 1999 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hispanic-Serving Institution Education Grants Program, Agreement Number: 97-38422-4592, Proposal Number: 1997-04189
"*High Desert Aquaculture Using Aquifer's, High Technology, and Innovative Training*", **Senior Associate.**

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cfa@microspeed.com

Testimony Submitted to

U. S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

March, 2010

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by
Mr. Joey Lowery, President
Catfish Farmers of America
1100 Highway 82 East, Suite 202
Indianola, Mississippi 38751

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting the important work conducted by the USDA-NIFA Regional Aquaculture Centers. My name is Joey Lowery and I have been a catfish farmer for over 25 years. I own a 500-acre catfish farm near Newport, Arkansas, and I am the president of the Catfish Farmers of America. With membership from 35 states, the Catfish Farmers of America is the trade organization that represents the interests of the farm-raised catfish industry, which is the largest sector of United States aquaculture. I appreciate the support Congress has provided for the Regional Aquaculture Centers in the past and ask that you consider continuing that support by funding the five Centers at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2011.

Global and national demand for seafood is increasing, but marine capture fisheries are fully exploited. Aquaculture, or fish farming, is the only hope to meet the increased consumer demand. Most of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, leading to a trade deficit exceeding $9 billion, which is the largest deficit for any agricultural commodity. For reasons of food security, food safety, and balance of trade, it is in the best interest of the United States to develop a strong domestic aquaculture industry to provide U.S. consumers with a dependable and safe seafood supply. The farm-raised catfish industry is the largest domestic aquaculture industry, with a regional economic impact of more than $4 billion and employing more than 10,000 citizens. However, the profitability of catfish farming has declined to historic lows because of competition from imported products and higher production costs. Many farms have been lost during these difficult times. Technologies that improve production efficiency can restore profitability, provide an economic opportunity for thousands of citizens, and provide a sustainable and safe domestic source of seafood for U.S. consumers.

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center has met this challenge by developing multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research projects to help restore the competitive edge to American farmers. The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center is unique as a funding mechanism because it allows farmers to identify research priorities. This is evident in the applied, problem-solving projects that have been developed to address recent downturns in farm profitability. Recent projects in marketing and economic forecasting should help the industry better respond to the effects of global macroeconomic forces on farming profitability, while new technologies such as the development of genetically superior fish may give farmers an edge to help restore profitability. The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center is also leading the way in environmental stewardship by funding key projects on waste management and reduction of the industry's carbon footprint.

Despite a clear record of efficient and effective use of Federal funds, the Regional Aquaculture Center program has been funded for more than 20 years at half the authorized level. During that time, erosion of the dollar's purchasing power has severely diminished the scope of work that can be conducted by the Centers, just at the time when we need increased research. Please consider restoring the ability of the Centers to operate as originally intended by funding the program at its fully authorized level of $7.5 million in FY 2011.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have not received Federal Grant monies.

Joey Lowery

President, Catfish Farmers of America

500 River Oaks Blvd.
Searcy, Arkansas 72143
501-454-1810
jlowery@wildblue.net

Education:

1985 BA Business Management
Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas

Positions Held:

President, Catfish Farmers of America
President, Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
Board Member, Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board
Board Member, Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
Member, National Fisheries Advisory Council UAPB Aquaculture Fisheries Center
Member, Industry Advisory Council, Southern Regional Aquaculture Center
Member, Risk Management in Aquaculture Steering Committee

Work History:

Farmer since 1985

ALABAMA
CATFISH PRODUCERS
A Division of Alabama Farmers Federation

Testimony Submitted to
U. S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 2010

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by

Mitt Walker, Director
Alabama Catfish Producers
PO Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Mitt Walker, and I am the director of the Alabama Catfish Producers, a division of the Alabama Farmers Federation. I have served in this capacity for almost five years, but have worked in the field of agriculture for more than a decade. I am requesting, on behalf of the Alabama Catfish Producers, that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY2011. The RAC program is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain this effectiveness.

Today, the catfish industry continues to face a crisis as a result of foreign competition, rising input costs, and concerns about how the current economic situation will impact consumer demand. It is critical to reduce costs to maintain profitability, while ensuring production of a quality product. Our industry, which is still hanging on as one of the main economic engines of two of the countries most economically depressed areas, the Alabama Black Belt and the Mississippi Delta, is in need of support. Farm profits are shrinking or absent, and we are increasingly forced to compete with seafood imports (primarily from Asia) that are produced at an advantage because of low labor costs and the absence of regulatory oversight. Our future rests on the ability of American farmers to recapture production efficiencies by making use of technological advances.

Catfish farming is by far the largest aquaculture industry in the United States. However, we are continuing to see our market share decline as a result of cheap imports from countries like Vietnam and China. In 2004, imports from these countries made up less than four percent of sales in the US. By 2009, there were more imported frozen catfish fillets in the U.S. market than domestically produced catfish fillets. During this same period we have seen the price of catfish feed go from less than $250 per ton to a high of almost $440 per ton in 2008. Catfish feed, comprised mainly of soybean meal and corn, makes up more than half of the inputs costs in producing catfish.

The SRAC has been in the business of helping the domestic catfish producer for more than twenty years. The SRAC project process responds directly and immediately to the needs of the farmer by involving the producer in the process and providing science-based solutions to critical needs within the industry.

The Regional Aquaculture Centers have been level-funded at about 50% of the authorized funding level amount for almost 20 years. Level funding has greatly diminished the capabilities of the Centers to address problems facing the industry, especially in these extremely critical times. I strongly urge Congress to fund the Regional Aquaculture Center program for the fully authorized $7.5 million for the next fiscal year. Full funding is an excellent investment in an economic sector that creates jobs and fosters economic growth in rural areas of the U.S. and is essential for the U.S. aquaculture industry to remain competitive and to improve productivity and efficiency.

The SRAC has continued to adapt to the needs of producers over the years from work in the area of catfish pond effluents and the advancement of the channel x blue catfish hybrid, to ongoing projects today like intensive production systems and economic forecasting. I am particularly interested in two projects currently underway involving pond inventories, and economic forecasting and policy analysis models. These types of projects will help producers make better business decisions and be more profitable on the farm while providing the raw materials that keep thousands employed in the catfish industry.

Based on the above information, I respectfully request your sincere consideration to fully fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers, and SRAC in particular, in the FY 2011 budget, in order for our industry to remain competitive and efficient.

Thank you for your time and support.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have not received Federal Grant monies.

CURRICULUM VITAE

James M. "Mitt" Walker, II
PO Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36191
(334) 613-4757
mwalker@alfafarmers.org

Education

1997	**B.S. in Environmental Analysis and Management** Troy University, Troy, AL

Employment History

1998 – 1999	**Environmental Materials Consultants, Inc.** Environmental Consulting Firm Montgomery, AL
1999 – 2005	**Alabama Department of Environmental Management** Permitting and Inspection of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Montgomery, AL
2005 – Present	**Alabama Farmers Federation** Director, Catfish and Meat Goat & Sheep Divisions Montgomery, AL

Professional Organizations

Member, Catfish Farmers of America

Member, American Sheep Industry Association

AL Aquaculture Coordinator, National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators

2705 Michelle Drive - Mena, AR 71953
Office/Cell: (870) 672-1716
Fax/Home: (479) 437-3081

Board of Directors

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Wayne Branton
Wilmot, AR

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Reed Breedlove
Portland, AR

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Joey Williamson
Lake Village, AR

Executive Director
Charles "Bo" Collins
Office/Cell: (870) 672-1716
Home/Fax: (479) 437-3081

Ex-Officio
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Lake Village, AR

Mike Freeze
Keo, AR

Cheddy Williamson
Paragould, AR

John Farmer
Dumas, AR

Jerry Seamans
Lake Village, AR

Joey Pillow
Paragould, AR

Dennington Moss
Lake Village, AR

Joey Lowery
Amagon, AR

Bill Troutt
Dermott, AR

Dr. Carole Engle
Pine Bluff, AR

Steve Kueter
Paragould, AR

Linda Smith
Lake Village, AR

Jerry Williamson
Lake Village, AR

Testimony Submitted To
U. S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
February 24, 2010

Concerning
SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by
Charles M. Collins
Executive Director
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
2705 Michelle Drive
Mena, Arkansas 71953

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Center program. My name is Charles M. Collins and I am Executive Director of Catfish Farmers of Arkansas. The association that I represent was established in 1975 and is made up of catfish producers, suppliers/industry related businesses, researchers/education personnel, and others involved in promoting, producing, and marketing U.S. Farm Raised Catfish. On behalf of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas, I am requesting that the USDA-NIFA Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2011. Full funding is essential for the Centers to retain the effectiveness they demonstrated over the last 20 years.

Aquaculture in the United States has grown to be of significant importance in many areas. United Stated aquaculture industries and their product markets have matured to the point where the dynamics of national economy, federal and state policies, and international trade can have significant and unanticipated effects on the financial health of United States aquaculture businesses.

Economics research is essential to provide scientifically sound models that can be used to forecast industry trends, effects of anticipated macroeconomics factors, and impacts of proposed policy initiatives. The Southern Regional

Aquaculture Center's project "Economic Forecasting and Policy Analysis Models for Catfish and Trout" has developed, and is in the process of validating economic forecasting models for catfish and trout. No aquaculture businesses have the economics expertise with which to develop these models, but other segments of the agriculture and food sectors rely upon such models. To be competitive, United States aquaculture will need to have these same types of sophisticated models. Thus, the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project will provide an important tool for the United States aquaculture industry to be able to adapt its production and marketing strategies to be competitive in a climate of increased globalization and changing economic conditions.

United States aquaculture is facing increased competition from international imports of similar products. Understanding current trends in the markets for mature products (i.e., catfish fillets) and new products is fundamental to the design of effective business marketing strategies. There is a critical need for a comprehensive study to understand prices and pricing, sales volumes, and trends for fresh and frozen farm-raised fish, shellfish, and crustaceans with an emphasis on competition from imports. Marketing research and tools form the fundamental support from which individual companies can develop sales and advertising strategies and generic advertising programs.

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project "Using National Retail Databases to Determine Market Trends for Southern Aquaculture Products" has used the funding to acquire national databases of retail supermarket sales of fresh and frozen U.S. farm raised catfish, crawfish, clams, and prawn/shrimp products. The analyses underway will generate valuable market research information on competing seafood products in key cities and regions in the United States, information that is necessary for United States aquaculture businesses to remain competitive.

The above mentioned projects represent only a small part of the Regional Aquaculture Center programs. The program has been level-funded for almost the past twenty-one years and this is especially a time when we need to increase our research efforts in aquaculture and not eliminate this important program. The U.S. Farm Raised Catfish Industry is presently faced with severe economic problems and needs assistance to help bring this industry back to profitability. The Regional Aquaculture Center Program can assist in helping solve some of these problems.

Catfish Farmers of Arkansas recommends that the Regional Aquaculture Center Program receive full funding.

Charles M. Collins
Executive Director
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself, nor is the Association supported by Federal funds.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Charles M. "Bo" Collins
2705 Michelle Drive
Mena, Arkansas 71953
(870) 672-1716
(479) 437-3081
EMAIL: cfarkansas @sbcglobal.net
bocollins2705@sbcglobal.net

EDUCATION

BS, 1960, Fisheries Science
Oklahoma State University

PRESENT POSITION

Executive Director, Catfish Farmers of Arkansas

POSITIONS HELD

1985 - 2003 Fisheries Biologist at USDA Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center, Stuttgart, AR

1980 - 1985 Project Leader, Tennessee Valley Authority Waste Heat Aquaculture Project, Gallatin, TN

1968 - 1980 Aquaculture Extension and Research Biologist, Kerr Agricultural Foundation, Inc., Poteau, OK

1961 - 1968 Fisheries Biologist, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City, OK

1960 - 1961 U.S. Army Reserve, Artillery Training, Fort Sill, OK

CONTRIBUTIONS

Authored 83 manuscripts in various aquaculture journals and magazines

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Catfish Farmers of Arkansas
Catfish Farmers of America
National Aquaculture Association

HONORS/AWARDS/PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Certified Fisheries Scientist by the American Fisheries Society
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas Service Award in 1999

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Testimony Submitted to
U. S. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

March, 2010

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by
Mr. Robert L. (Shorty) Jones
1017 Greenfield Road
Glen Allen, Mississippi 38744
662-839-5555

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: I am pleased to support continued funding for the USDA-NIFA Regional Aquaculture Center program. My name is Robert (Shorty) Jones and I own AquaCenter, one of the largest aquaculture supply businesses in the world. I have also been a catfish farmer since 1990 and produce approximately 85 million high-quality fingerling catfish annually that are used by catfish farmers in five states. I presently serve as President of the Catfish Farmers of Mississippi and I am on the Board of Directors for the Catfish Farmers of America. Based upon past performance of the Centers, I am requesting that the USDA-NIFA Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2011.

Catfish farming is the largest aquaculture industry in the United States but the industry is experiencing significant economic hardship. Until very recently catfish farming was the most vigorous, rapid-growing, and vital sector of domestic agriculture, but farm profits have rapidly decreased or, in many cases, are absent. We have been forced to compete with imported seafoods (primarily from Asia) that are produced at an advantage because of low labor costs, the absence of regulatory oversight, and production in non-market economies. As you are well aware, relying on imports for food is an undesirable situation for consumers because of concerns with food quality and safety.

Our future depends on the ability of American farmers to recapture production efficiencies by making use of technological advances.

The USDA Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC) has a 22-year history of supporting American fish farmers. The Center is the only grants activity I am aware of that empowers farmers to identify the major problems that need to be addressed by scientists. Because projects are identified and developed at the grass-roots level, the results have practical benefits that are quickly delivered to the farmer. This is an extremely unique and effective way to develop research programs.

One of the most successful projects recently has been research into ways to make a hybrid catfish by crossing two native North American catfishes—the channel and blue catfish. The hybrid is much more resistant to diseases that commonly plague channel catfish and the fish grows faster, is easier to harvest, and has a higher meat yield than channel catfish. I believe that the greatest hope for a large leap forward in our industry is to fully develop the technology required to produce commercially significant numbers of the hybrid catfish. The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center project has addressed that problem in a 4-year project that involves nine top scientists from five institutions and agencies in the southeast. Their work has contributed to a 600% increase in hybrid catfish production over a 5-year period. The Center also is developing another project that continues to address reproductive inefficiencies in aquaculture. It is important to restate that both these projects were identified as priorities by farmers in the region and then developed to make use of unique expertise at various Universities and agencies in the southeast.

The Regional Aquaculture Centers have been level-funded at about 50% of the authorized funding level amount for almost 20 years. Level funding has greatly diminished the capabilities of the Centers to address problems facing the industry, especially in these extremely critical times. I strongly urge Congress to fund the Regional Aquaculture Center program for the fully authorized $7.5 million for the next fiscal year. Full funding is an excellent investment in an economic sector that creates jobs and fosters economic growth in rural areas of the U.S. and is essential for the U.S. aquaculture industry to remain competitive and to improve productivity and efficiency.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have not received Federal Grant monies.

AQUACENTER
"Your Complete AquaCulture Services"
166 Seven Oaks Road • Leland, Mississippi 38756
2) 378-2861 • Toll Free: 1-800-748-8921 • FAX: (662) 378-2862

Robert L. (Shorty) Jones
1017 Greenfield Road
Glen Allan, MS 38744
(662) 839-5555

Education

Glen Allan High School, graduated 1975

Work Experience

1975-1981 Noble Drilling Corporation
After graduating from high school I started working in the Gulf of Mexico drilling for oil and gas. In 1978 I became the youngest driller to ever work for the company.

1981-1986 Kajun Directional Drilling
I was the youngest directional driller to work in the Gulf of Mexico. I was instrumental in developing Mobil Oil's oil field in Mobile, Alabama by using new and different techniques.

1987-Present AquaCenter, Inc.
I started this company in Leland, Mississippi, supplying chemicals and equipment to the catfish industry. Later we started the catalog division and now supply multiple species customers. While being involved with AquaCenter I have traveled to many parts of the world and have been proud to support the U.S. farm-raised catfish industry.

1990-Present Needmore Fisheries
We hatch catfish fry and raise fingerlings which we sell over several states. We are currently involved in hybrid catfish production, where we are using blue males and channel females.

Professional Affiliations

Catfish Farmers of America Board Member
Catfish Farmers of Mississippi President
Member of SRAC Steering Committees
Mississippi State University Advisory Committee for Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
Delta Council Member
National Aquaculture Association Member
California Aquaculture Association Member
Catfish Farmers of Arkansas Member
Catfish Institute Working Advisory Committee Member

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HOAP
HOME OWNERSHIP
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

KAULANA H.R. PARK
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ANITA SEYER WONG
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT J. HALL
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1-866-512-4627 | WWW.HOAP.HAWAII.GOV | P.O. BOX 1879 | HONOLULU, HI 96805

Feb. 23, 2010

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee,

It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Sam E. Moku and I am Program Director of the Home Ownership Assistance Program of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, State of Hawaii. My mailing address is P.O. Box 1879, Honolulu, HI 96805 and my phone number is 808-620-9514. I am requesting, on behalf of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Homeownership Assistance Program (HOAP) that the USDA-NIFA Regional Aquaculture programs be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2010 and FY 2011. The RAC is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain this effectiveness.

We extend our mahalo to CTSA (Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture) project on aquaponics. They have shown us a way for our homeowners to live more sustainably and to grow their own fish and poi. We have tried several systems and are impressed with their simplicity, affordability, and the fact they are very productive. We are especially grateful to reseachers Dr. Harry Ako and Adam Baker and Drs. Clyde Tamaru and Bradley Fox for helping us with our demonstration project at our Kapolei headquarters and extending this help to the Waimanalo Homestead Association.

Aloha,

Sam E. Moku
Program Director
Home Ownership Assistance Program
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HOAP
HOME OWNERSHIP
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

KAULANA H.R. PARK
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ANITA SEYER WONG
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT J. HALL
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1-866-512-4627 | WWW.HOAPHAWAII.GOV | P.O. BOX 1879 | HONOLULU, HI 96805

March 3, 2010

To whom it may concern:

RE: Non-Receipt of Federal Research Grant Funds

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Home Ownership Assistance Program, has not received any Federal Research Grant funding over that last 5 years. Although the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands receives Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) funding.

Sincerely,

Sam Mok

Sam Moku
Director, Home Ownership Assistance Program

Sam Moku
91-5420 Kapolei Parkway • Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Work (808)620-9514 • Cell (808)306-1259
Email: sam.e.moku@hawaii.gov

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration
University of Hawaii, 1992

Bachelor of Arts in Economics
University of Hawaii, 1987
Rainbow Warrior Football, Four Year Letterman 1983-1986

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR, HOME OWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HOAP)

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, State of Hawaii
September 2005 - present
Responsible for design, implementation, and management of the HOAP program for DHHL. Its mission is to provide its beneficiaries the tools for homeownership. Created 3 components: Financial Literacy, Job Training and Placement, and Addictions Treatment Services. Responsible for tracking over 2000 beneficiaries across the State who receive HOAP services. Manage a $1 million budget. Work with other State departments, legislature, and Native Hawaiian organizations to promote HOAP.

Coordinate with DHHL leadership to successfully plan out housing developments. Work and meet with developers, realtors, lenders, and beneficiaries to help them understand DHHL process and organizational structure.

Created a partnership with the Hawaii's Carpenters Union to provide jobs for DHHL Beneficiaries. Responsible for negotiating and contracting service providers. Implemented DHHL procedures to help reduce delinquent loans from 43% to 17%. Implemented post-homeownership training for beneficiaries.

Responsible for the build out of a $500,000 HOAP facility to service beneficiaries

LAND AGENT, LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, State of Hawaii
July 2004 - September 2005
Land manager for DHHL unencumbered lands on the island of Oahu and Kauai.
Responsible for the management and commercial use of DHHL lands.
Negotiated and wrote contracts for ground leasing through various legal documents such as revocable permits, licenses, and general leases.
Procured vendor/contractor services to maintain lands

CHIEF OF STAFF, Hawaii State Senator Bob Hogue

Hawaii State Legislature
November 2000 – July 2004
Responsible for community relations, office administration, and bill research and tracking. Attended community and neighborhood board meetings to report on activities at the Legislature. Responsible for hiring and coordinating office staff. Attended and reported on Senate legislative hearings and committees.

John Austin - Owner
Keawanui Farms
HC 1-479, Kaunakakai, HI 96748

March 1, 2010

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Concerning
Support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program

To the Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

This is a testimony in support of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) and the Regional Aquaculture Center programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. I strongly encourage the support of the Regional Aquaculture Center program and CTSA at the $7.5 million funding level.

I own Keawanui Farms on the island of Moloka'i, and we have been working with CTSA-sponsored scientist Dr. Robert Howerton. My farm is currently serving as a grow-out site for oysters and clams as part of the "Developing Bivalve Culture to Diversify and Position Hawaii as a Supplier of Safe, Premium, Edible Shellfish Products" project, which aims to introduce bivalve culture to Hawaii.

Through our participation with this project, Dr. Howerton and his research team have provided my farm with supplies, critical technical assistance, and oyster and clam spat. We have had significant success with the oysters and we plan to continue our collaborative efforts with Dr. Howerton. His research team is in the process of developing an alternative grow-out technique to maximize efficiency. This system will undergo trials at my farm, a process I am excited to be a part of.

Oysters and clams are locally popular seafood items, but unfortunately, the abundance and distribution of all bivalves on Moloka'i have decreased significantly over the past generation to the point where very few can be found today. Projects like Dr. Howerton's are critical to replenish the severely depleted supply and meet market demand. If this project is successful, bivalves could change from being a large, neglected sector of the commercial aquaculture landscape to a significant part of the industry.

I applaud CTSA for sponsoring research that both introduces new revenue streams to local producers and provides extensive extension support to farmers to ensure our operations are successful. Support and data from their funded projects have a great impact on the local economy, and I am a strong advocate of CTSA and the Regional Aquaculture Center Program.

Yours truly,

John Austin
Owner, Keawanui Farms

GRANT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

I have not been awarded any federal research grants in the past three fiscal years.

John Austin
Keawanui Farms

John C. Austin
HC 1 Box 479
Kaunakakai HI 96748
Ph: 808.558.8931
Kiwi1961@mac.com

Employment

Keawa Nui Farms – Owner and Operator

Keawa Nui Farms is one of the most modern aquaculture facilities in the State of Hawaii. The farm is set on the east end of Moloka`i and is 80 acres of aqua culture land that runs one mile of beachfront. In Hawaiian, Keawa Nui means "big bay" and is where the ancient canoes would come to Moloka'i. Keawa Nui has a total of sixteen, half-acre circular ponds that are designed with isolated plumbing networks, which eliminate any chance of contamination. We also have 40 acres set aside for expansion, which would allow a total of 22 more half-acre fishponds. Our farm is supplied by two salt-water wells, which extend 350 feet below the surface and which supply the purest filtered salt water available in Hawaii. Our farm is SPF certified (Specific-Pathogen-Free) with white shrimp as our main product.

We are currently implementing a "Poly Culture" technique where shrimp, oysters and clams are grown together. This has proven to be very effective. Our facility also sustains local fish such as mullet, moi and awa. As a bi - product of used water we also sustain talapia, Samoan crab and ogo.

Pakin Community Association
c/o Sokehs Municipal Government
P.O. Box 2247
Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941.
Aisek Artui, President

March 1, 2010

Testimony to the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Concerning
Support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program

To the Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

This letter is my written testimony in support of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) and the Regional Aquaculture Center programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. I strongly encourage you to support the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the appropriated level of funding of $7.5 million.

As the president of the Pakin Community Association (NGO), a beneficiary of CTSA research, I can attest to the significant, measurable impacts of the Regional Aquaculture Center program. Pakin Atoll is a small island community in the Federated States of Micronesia with a population of 120 people living in roughly one-half square mile. Our main sources of income are selling fish and copra; however, the CTSA-funded "Black Pearl" project, led by Dr. Masahiro Ito and supported by the College of Micronesia (COM), has afforded us with the rare opportunity to introduce a new revenue stream in our small community.

In addition to advancing the commercial black pearl aquaculture industry through the improvement of grafting techniques and husbandry methods, Dr. Ito's project has made a significant impact on Pakin Atoll by giving us the necessary tools to establish a community-owned commercial black pearl farm. Micronesian technicians trained in Pohnpei during the first year of this project have come to the atoll to teach our community members the technology and methods associated with black pearl culture and jewelry making. To date, twenty people from Pakin have been trained and are involved in the maintenance of the farm. Thanks to this CTSA project, a significant portion of our community now possesses valuable skills in black pearl seeding and grafting operations, as well as accessory making.

I cannot begin to express the importance of economic independence to small islands like ours. One of the main objectives of the Pakin Community Association is to establish perpetual self-reliance, and support from organizations like CTSA helps us in our quest to attain that goal. Furthermore, innovative projects like Dr. Ito's that emphasize transfer of technology among local communities help to sustain livelihood from one generation to the next.

CTSA's extensive geographic reach is unique among the Regional Aquaculture Center's, and I applaud the Center for their sponsorship of meaningful projects that work within local communities and provide opportunities for economic growth throughout the Pacific Islands. Thank you for allowing me to express my gratitude and support for the Regional Aquaculture Center Program.

Warm Regards,

Aisek Artui
President, Pakin Community Association

Grant Disclosure Statement

(For each Federal Grant you received during the period October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009).
Amount:
Federal Agency & Grant No.:
Project Title:
Term of the grant:
Name of Institution:

I have not been awarded any federal research grants the past three fiscal years.

Aisek Artui
President, Pakin Community Association

Resume or History of Education and Work Experience

Name
Pakin Community Association (PCA)

Contact Address
Aisek Artui, the President of Pakin Community Association,
c/o Sokehs Municipal Government; P.O. Box 2247; Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941.

History and Activities
Pakin is an atoll situated approximately 28 miles Southwest of Pohnpei. The atoll consists of 10 small islands and islets with a barrier reef surrounding the group. The atoll has a total land area of about 0.42 square miles. Five of the islets are inhabited with the island of Nikahlap as the main centre for the atoll. Nikahlap hosts a church and an elementary school and where most community meetings take place. The atoll has a vast lagoon estimated at 5.52 square miles with the deepest part at around 200 feet. The lagoon and surrounding reef areas provide sustenance for the community and considered one of the richest marine ecosystems within the Pohnpei State. An estimated population of 120 residents, however, of which around 60 people permanently resides in the main island of Pohnpei. Of the 120 residents, 47% are adults (18 years and over) and 53% are of children and the youth. The Pakin community lives in a close-knit society where sharing and caring is commonly practiced. It has a chiefly system that is either passed through family or elected by the community. The main sources of income for Pakin are from fish, copra and sometimes from selling pigs to the residents of Pohnpei. The island also possesses a unique plant of lime species considered the best in Pohnpei is sometimes sold in the main island. The Pakin Elementary School provides education for all children. The school administered by the Pohnpei State has a roll of 32 students with four teachers including the principal. Students graduating from the elementary School continue their high school education in the main island.

October 2007 to Present:
Registered as a NGO (Non Governmental Organization) under the Pohnpei State by-laws.

The PCA represents all residents of Pakin community, which includes the groups of youths, women, traditional leaders, church and school. The PCA's activities include community welfare and livelihoods improvements, also involving school children as an important component of enhancing awareness of atoll conservation and economic (i.e. pearl farming) activities.

The purposes for which the PCA was organized:
1) To promote and maintain the cultural values of the residents of Pakin Atoll through the initiation and administration of community-sponsored programs to improve the standard of living, education and economic development on the atoll.
2) To receive and accept contributions, gifts and grants from any person, firm association, corporation, municipality, body politic, governmental agency or authority, including grantor agencies.
3) To purchase property or enter into any agreement or contract for the purpose of fulfilling the mission and purposes for which the PCA was organized.
4) To work for community unity and sustainable development towards perpetual self reliance.

Members:

The membership of PCA is given to those who reside the islands of the Pakin Atoll and to those who wish to join the PCA under the following conditions:

1) A person who resides on the islands of the Pakin Atoll regardless of possessing the Pohnpei State's residency/social security number.
2) A person who resides on the islands of Pakin for continuously or for intermittently at least a total of one third of the year.
3) A person who is eighteen years old or older.
4) A person who does not reside the islands of the Pakin Atoll, who does not have a PCA membership, may become a candidate for the adviser of the board. Adviser(s) shall not have voting privileges and may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors of this organization consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, representatives from the traditional leadership, church, women and youths groups. The Board of Directors are elected from the membership of PCA in the manner and for the terms provided in the By-Laws of this organization.

Activities in fisheries, aquaculture and marine conservation:

The PCA has been working closely with the College of Micronesia Pearl Project for developing community pearl farming, of which commercial operation is due to be implemented in 2010, in conjunction with an integrated marine protected areas and pearl farming development project funded by the GEF/Micronesian Conservation Trust. The organization is also involved in the ecosystem-based community fisheries management program led by the Pohnpei State Government and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) who designated Pakin as one of the model projects in FSM.

Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC

Bill West, President
N5811 Twelve Corners Road
Black Creek, WI 54106
920-730-0684
blueirisenv@gmail.com

February 2010

To: US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Dear Honored Members of Congress:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. Members of the aquaculture industry are very thankful for the support of Congress in the past and we thank you in advance for your continued support. We strongly urge you to fund this program at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY2011 and beyond.

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center just recently completed its annual meeting. During the annual meeting, we were thankful to be able to identify several projects which are in need of the dollars provided. While in session at the NCRAC meeting, it is becoming more and more apparent that in order for the industry to succeed, there is a dire need to increase the funding that we apply toward real industry progress. The RACs individually are key to identifying those species and aquaculture products which can be grown locally and provide research which will allow local growers methods toward sustainable aquaculture. The U.S. is in desperate need to develop a sustainable industry which can fulfill two objectives: one, reverse the escalating seafood trade imbalance, and two, provide a level of biosecurity here-to-fore not available with imported aquatic food supplies. Your support of the RACs goes a long way toward addressing these national priorities and a fully funded program will allow much needed progress in key regionally important research and education.

I have to commend the Members of Congress for continuing to provide funding for the RAC program. You should be aware however, that the RAC program in recent years has only been funded at 50 percent. This is an excellent use of monies that will go directly into programs which will stimulate local economies. The aquaculture industry would appreciate your consideration for increased funding for the RAC programs and again, thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely;

BLUE IRIS FISH FARM, LLC

William M. West, President

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that I have received Federal Grant monies in the past for aquaculture research as follows.

Fiscal Year	Agency	Program	Amount	Project Number
FY 2008	USDA	Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)	$6,000	FNC08-731

VITA
February 2010

William M. West, President
Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC
N5811 Twelve Corners Road
Black Creek, WI 54106

Phone: 920-730-0684
Fax: 920-738-7774
email: blueirisenv@gmail.com

EDUCATION

BS Biology University of Wisconsin Stevens Point 1973
MS Limnology University of North Dakota, Grand Forks 1977

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner Blue Iris Fish Farm, LLC Black Creek Wisconsin (1988-present)
Owner Blue Iris Environmental, Inc. Black Creek Wisconsin (2000 – present)
Board of Directors American Peat Technology, LLC, Aitkin, Minnesota (2004 – present)
President Northeast Wisconsin Fish Co-operative, Black Creek, Wisconsin (2006 – present)
Environmental Compliance Consultants, Inc. Green Bay, WI 1995 – 2000 Environmental Consultant
Foth and Van Dyke and Assoc.,. Green Bay, WI 1988 – 1995 Environmental Consultant
Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, WI 1987 Toxicology Studies
Kenosha Water Utility, Kenosha, WI 1977 – 1987 Biologist and Chemist WWTP Process Control

PROFESSIONAL AND AFFILIATIONS

Past President Wisconsin Aquaculture Association
Past President Federation of Environmental Technologists, Northeast Wisconsin
Wisconsin Wastewater Operators Association – Life Member
Wisconsin Lakes Association
North Central Regional Aquaculture Center – Industry Advisory Committee (IAC)
Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council (WAIAC)
Wisconsin Industry Advisory Council for Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility

Aquatic Resource Management
Manning, Iowa 51455
712-653-9403
blankman@iowatelecom.net

February 6, 2010

Testimony submitted to the
U.S House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related agencies
Concerning
Support for the Regional Aquaculture Centers

You are in a position to put the United States at the forefront of the aquaculture industry by continued funding of the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program and I strongly urge you to fund the program at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY2011. Seafood continues to rank high on our imports list, second only to oil. Numbers like this indicate the importance of seafood in the American diet. Self reliance on aquaculture production seems to be logical. Culturing seafood products in the United States through aquaculture has unlimited potential. Aquaculture continues to grow in the United States, as well as in other parts of the world. This growth, I believe, comes from several different factors including traditional farmers diversifying operations to improve farm incomes; rural communities improving the rural economy by creating jobs utilizing labor, water, and available land; and fish farmers filling voids created by a declining wild harvest. This wild harvest received a damaging blow in 2007 with the discovery of a viral infection in the Great Lakes region called VHS. In 2006, biologists warned that many marine species are overfished and are in danger of catastrophic population crashes. In 2006, an international team of researchers predicted that all the world's major seafood populations will collapse by 2048 if overfishing and habitat destruction continue. Three fourths of all major marine fisheries are reported to be fully exploited, overfished, or severely depleted. Fish and seafood contributes more than 140 million metric tons of highly valued food every year and is the primary source of animal protein for ¼ of the world's population. With this type of information, it is clear that the aquaculture industry will need to fill this void.

As traditional farming operations continue the trend from small family owned operations to large-scale corporate farms, many family farms continue to look at aquaculture as a way to stay viable or diversify their operation. Losing or reducing critical funding will have a devastating effect on the aquaculture and baitfish industry, which will then trickle down to the sport fishing and agriculture industry in general. Technology in aquaculture is improving at an amazing rate thanks to the RACs and the projects they fund. With unemployment rates near 10% and a federal deficit at an all time high, it becomes imperative that the elected members of Congress provide the tools necessary for the United States to become self-sufficient in all areas. Supporting RACs provides these tools through multiple sources including research, workshops, educational programs, production manuals, technical bulletins, and extension staffing. Disrupting the funding to these centers would be a major blow to an industry and a country that needs to begin producing on a global scale while reducing imports of products that can be produced within.

The RACs are the lifeline of the aquaculture industry. It is absolutely crucial to fully fund the RACs at $7.5 million for aquaculture's continued growth. Show your support to the industry by providing the RACs full funding so they may continue the work that is vital to the future. This funding will lead to an industry capable of competing in the world market and limit our need for foreign imports.

Thank You,

James Blankman

James Blankman
Aquatic Resource Management

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.

VITA

James Blankman
3035 400th Street
Manning, Iowa 51455

phone: 712-653-9403
e-mail: blankman@iowatelecom.net

Education

B.S. Iowa State University, 1990, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology

Positions

Aquatic Resource Management, Owner/Manager, 2000-present
AR-WE-VA Community Schools, Biology/Zoology Instructor 2006-present
Diversity Farms Inc., Wildlife Biologist/Consultant, 1998- 2005
Loess Hills Aquaculture L.L.C., Manager/Co-owner, 1998-2003
Archer Daniels Midland, Fish Production Facility Manager, 1992-1996
Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Biologist, 1988-1991

Scientific and Professional Organizations

National Aquaculture Association
Iowa Aquaculture Association
Professional Lake Managers Association
Fish Iowa Educator
Iowater Stream Monitor
Pheasants Forever

Research Projects

Pond Renovations using Flathead Catfish, USDA SARE Program 2003-2004
Feasibility Study of Walleye and Yellow Perch, Iowa State University 1998-1999
Freshwater Shrimp production densities, ADM/Illinois State, 1993-1995
Production of Pellet-trained Bullfrogs, ADM/Illinois State, 1993-1994
Using HCG in African Clawed Frogs, ADM/Illinois State, 1994-1995

CALALA'S WATER HAVEN INC.
421 STATE RT 60
NEW LONDON, OH 44851
(419) 929-8052

February 2010

To U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Dear Honored Members of Congress:

Once again, I have been asked to write to you in support of funding the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY2011.

In the time that has lapsed sense my last letter to you on behalf of the RAC, our region has now had serious restrictions placed on us by APHIS. Because of the outbreak of VHS our industry will face new challenges. The research necessary to deal with these challenges will not come from APHIS. It will come through the efforts of a group that has demonstrated its ability to aid the aquaculture community in situations like this. The RAC program has earned the trust of the aquaculture community. And I believe that together they can come up with the solutions that are necessary to deal with these situations. But we must have the funding necessary to accomplish these goals.

Let me give you an example of a practical application that I have witnessed personally. This will give you an idea of how the funding you provide to the RAC impacts the farmers. There is successful shrimp farming in Ohio! That's right, I said SHRIMP FARMING. This is largely due to the start up of a local shrimp nursery in our state and the efforts of some 25 growers. A large part of the information to start and maintain the nursery as well as fertilization and maintenance of ponds along with feed recommendations and marketing techniques were available on the AquaNIC web site (aquanic.org). This site is partially funded by the RAC monies. Without that information I am confident that we would not have been as successful.

As in years past I had the opportunity to witness, first hand, the process by which the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) funds are directed to different projects. I must tell you that I am thoroughly impressed with the way things are handled. I, along with 18 other producers, who volunteered their time (three days!) to go over prospective projects, met in Columbus, Ohio. But, the work to decide which project would be funded began a month earlier with an e-mail survey. In that way we could look over the different items and get input from our states' producers to determine the priority of each one. In this way I believe we were able to get the greatest input on the most important needs in our industry. Coupled with the technical committees of extension and research it made for a well-rounded group. I would also venture to say that one would be hard pressed to put a monetary value on the worth of having all these folks in one place to focus on aquaculture needs. And they are there as volunteers.

It was hard to choose between the different projects, they were all important, but we had to pick only a few because of the limited funding. I do not presume to know how difficult it is for you to decide who will receive funding and who will not, or how much they will receive, all I can tell you is in my experience I see the monies spent to fund the RACs as worthwhile. When you consider the way the funds are leveraged with existing funds and personnel and the incredible amount of volunteer hours, I believe we as taxpayers are getting a lot of bang for our bucks.

So with all due respect I urge you to fully fund the RAC program for $7.5 million. I thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this matter. I would also like to thank you all personally for the job that you are doing to manage the financial resources of this great country of ours.

Sincerely,
Robert Calala
Co-owner, Calala's Water Haven, Inc.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself during fiscal years 2008, 2009, or 2010..

VITA

Robert Calala, Co-Owner/Operator
Calala's Water Haven, Inc.
421 State Route 60
New London, OH 44851

Phone: (419) 929-8052
calala@earthlink.net

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Owner/Operator, Calala's Water Haven, Inc. (1963-present); the largest producer of soft-shelled crayfish for bait in the U.S.
Only Fresh Water Shrimp nursery in north central region

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

President, Ohio Aquaculture Association (2002-2005) (2007-2009) (2010-2012)
Member, Ohio Farm Bureau
Member, Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Centers Leadership Council
Member, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture Health and Advisory Committee
Member, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee
Member, Vice President's Advisory Council, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Ohio State University
Member, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

HARRISON FISHERIES INC.

Harrison Fisheries, Inc.
RR2 Box 61
Hurdland, MO 63547

www.harrisonfisheries.com

Office: (660) 423-5482
Fax: (660) 423-5337

February 2010

Testimony Submitted to the

U.S. House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

I would like to open by thanking you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the United States aquaculture community. We urge you to please support the fully authorized funding level of $7.5 million for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program for FY2011.

Harrison Fisheries Inc. came from a family farm that has been in existence for over 140 years. At the turn of this century, our family farm was vacant of all "traditional livestock." Up until then, hogs and cattle had always played a vital role in our cash flow. Aquaculture has now replaced all of our other commodities and is seen as a highly viable alternative to our traditional crops. What once were hog confinement buildings, are now aquaculture production units. With this success, we feel growth potential in this segment of agriculture is at an all time record high.

A love of the outdoors, a retiring hobby fish farmer, and perhaps fortunate timing is what launched me into the aquaculture business. In 1990, I started Harrison Fish Farm with a three acre lake and twelve cages. However, in 2008, major transformation took place when a new partnership was formed and we greatly expanded our operation, renaming it Harrison Fisheries Inc. We are excited about the future outlook of the aquaculture industry. We have assisted over a dozen new producers during the past five years and are expecting additional local expansion. This year, a dream I had became a reality when our indoor recirculating aquaculture system became operational, the first commercial system in Missouri. With this facility, we are now capable of feed training species of fish that normally do not take pellets. Walleye, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass are just a few of the gamefish we are planning to produce and market. We provide numerous species of live fish to ethnic markets in Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City as well as providing fish for pond and lake stocking. We feel our marketing opportunities are essentially unlimited and we are unable to keep up with the current demand.

Look around; it is quite easy to find success stories of fish farmers and their related endeavors. We need your continued support now more than ever. Please demonstrate your support of the aquaculture industry by supporting the RAC's at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million.

Our oceans are being depleted of sustainable levels of aquatic species at an alarming rate. It is our concern that the U.S. Farmer will be unable to be competitive in aquaculture production when fish are being shipped in overseas at or below our production costs. In order to remain competitive, we must be able to utilize technology and information available to lower our input costs. The Internet and computer software have transformed the information highway into an

HARRISON FISHERIES INC.

Harrison Fisheries, Inc.
RR2 Box 61
Hurdland, MO 63547

www.harrisonfisheries.com

Office: (660) 423-5482
Fax: (660) 423-5337

effective marketing and production tool. We need your support to include more farmers and innovative leaders in aquaculture.

We have an opportunity to help our American farmers by including them in an agricultural sector that shows great potential. Our RACs are playing an increasingly vital role in getting this information out to our state and county extension agencies. The transfer of technology is crucial for the expansion of our aquaculture industry at the grass roots level. We need to inform the farmer as well as the public of the benefits of producing American products for the American public. We also must act upon that information and now is the time.

Ever since their inception, our RAC's have not received full funding at their authorized level of $7.5 million. Please do not let pressure for spending cuts dictate against wise investments for our American farmers. We all realize that the value of one dollar is not what it was when the RAC's were created. They are getting the same funding now as they did at their inception. In essence, we are receiving less due to inflation and rising costs: all these factors dictate that something must be done soon.

Please demonstrate your support of our aquaculture industry by supporting the RAC's. Level funding is not in our best interests. We need your support by funding the Centers at the fully authorized $7.5 million. Please be a leader and supporter for our industry. Give us, your American farmer, a true chance at making a significant transformation. It has made a large impact here in Missouri. I know it can make a huge difference in the entire United States as well.

Thank you,

Curtis Harrison

Curtis Harrison
Harrison Fisheries Inc.

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby state that no Federal Grant monies have been received by myself or any business entity represented by myself at this time or at any time in the past.

VITA

Curtis Harrison, CEO/Owner
Harrision Fish Farm, Inc.
Route 2 - Box 61
Hurdland, MO 63547

Phone: (660) 423-5482
Fax: (660) 423-5337

EDUCATION

B.S. (Agricultural Engineering) University of Missouri-Columbia, 1987

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/Operator, Harrison Fish Farm, Hurdland, Missouri (1990-present)

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

Executive Committee member, Industry Advisory Council, North Central Regional Aquaculture Center
Member, Board of Directors, Missouri Aquaculture Association

Testimony Submitted to
U.S. House Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

March 5, 2010
Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Submitted by:
Kathleen A Rhodes, Administrator
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Kathleen A. Rhodes, Administrator of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, *1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River, NJ 08755. I am* requesting, on behalf of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2011. The RAC program is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain *this effectiveness.*

The East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (ECSGA) is a non-profit industry association formed in 2001 to represent shellfish growers from Maine to Florida. The mission of the ECSGA *is to promote* and develop responsible commercial shellfish aquaculture. The shellfish aquaculture industry on the East Coast is composed of more than 1,300 farms of all sizes with annual harvests valued at nearly $80 million. Our membership also consists of a significant number of companies that provide goods and services to our farmers.

We currently import over 80% of the seafood consumed in this country and this contributes more than nine billion dollars to our national trade deficit. We believe that the East Coast shellfish industry has substantial potential for growth and that this growth can be accelerated with RAC support. For example, support from NRAC has recently funded the development of Best Management Practices for our industry. But, we continue to have an urgent need for funding for basic and applied research to improve our hatchery and field operations. While traditional terrestrial agriculture has benefited from significant research and extension support over the years, aquaculture remains underserved. We specifically need advancements in disease control and genetic improvement of stocks. In addition, market research *and development are becoming* ever more important to this developing industry.

The Regional Aquaculture Center program has an authorized annual funding limit of $7.5 million, although the appropriated *level of funding recently has been only at half that level.* Divided among the five regional Centers, less than $750,000 is available per Center. Aquaculture funding is an investment in growing our domestic food supply with positive results for our seafood trade deficit and for national security. We strongly encourage funding for the Regional Aquaculture Center program at the $7.5 million appropriated level or higher.

With significant questions emerging regarding the safety of imported foods and large national trade deficits driven by domestic producers at competitive disadvantages, a significant investment in aquaculture research and extension is essential. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have the potential to address this national need and should be *fully funded with a steady increase* in funding over the next ten years. This strategy would represent a prudent investment in our nation's future and will yield returns on investment far in excess of these funding levels. I urge you to support and fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers fully.

Thank you in advance for your consideration; if you need further information on this topic I am available by phone at 203-623-2819 or by e-mail at ecsga@optonline.net

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Rhodes

Kathleen A. Rhodes
Administrator
East Coast Shellfish Growers Association

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI *of* the Rues of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Inc.

Calendar Year	Agency	Program	Amount	Grant Number
2009	NOAA	Fisheries	$10,000.00	NA08NMF4720670

Curriculum Vitae – Kathleen A. Rhodes

1529 Byrd St, Baltimore, MD 21230
Telephone: 203 623 2819 * e-mail: ecsga@optonline.net

Education

M.S., Zoology, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, 1975.
B.S., Biology (pre-marine option), University of Maine, Orono, ME, 1974.

Professional Positions

Administrator and Webmaster, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Toms River, NJ, Jan. 2005 - present
Director of Education, SoundWaters, Stamford, CT, Feb. 2004 - Oct. 2007

Academic Liaison, The School for Field Studies, Salem, MA, Aug. 2001 - Jan. 2004
Program Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. Nov. 1998 - Aug. 2001
Projects Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. Apr. 1998 - Nov. 1998
Office Assistant, The World Bank, Washington, DC, Nov. 1997 - Apr. 1998
Resident Faculty / Lecturer, *The School for Field Studies / Boston University*, Boston, MA, Jan. - Sept. 1997
Director of Community Relations and Training, Cultivos Marinos Internacionales, Caldera, Chile, 1995
Hatchery Manager, Cultivos Marinos Internacionales, Caldera, Chile, 1991 - 1994
Chief, Micro-algal Section, Cultivos Marinos Internacionales, Caldera, Chile, 1990 - 1991
Public Participation Coordinator of the Long Island Sound Study, University of Connecticut Marine Advisory Service, Hamden, CT, *1988 - 1990*
Staff Scientist, Schooner, Inc., New Haven, CT, 1986 - 1988
Biologist, Metcalf & Eddy, Wakefield, MA, 1982 - 1985
Research Associate, Edgerton Research Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Boston, MA, 1977 - 1982
Teaching Assistant, Marine Science II, Shoals Marine Laboratory, Kittery, ME, 1977
Counselor, Web of Life Outdoor Education Center, Sandwich, MA, 1977
Assistant Scientist / Director, Cape Cod Aquaculture *Expedition, Earthwatch*, Watertown, MA, 1976

Testimony Submitted to

U.S. House Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Written Statement by
Dr. Michael Timmons
President
HOLDER TIMMONS ENGINEERING LLC.
126 Sunset Drive
Ithaca, New York 14850

February 25, 2010

I am writing in support of the funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is Michael B. Timmons and I work in the aquaculture industry in multiple capacities and experiences: consultant (President of Holder Timmons Engineering, LLC), publisher (President, Cayuga Aqua Ventures, LLC,) producer (former president and founder of Fingerlakes Aquaculture, LLC), and researcher (Professor, Cornell University).

Economic viability and success in aquaculture will be critically dependent upon the generation of appropriate technologies and management methodologies. The RAC facilities play a pivotal role in this process. Efforts to reduce our almost complete dependence upon importation to supply our seafood demand should be heavily pursued. Continued support of our RAC centers is critical so that a foundation for conducting the near-term applied research that typifies their activities can be maintained.

I support and am asking for your support to increase the $7.5 million funding levels for the RAC's for FY 2011.

Sincerely yours,

MB Timmons

President, Holder Timmons Engineering LLC

Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by Holder Timmons Engineering, LLC In the past year.

Holder Timmons Engineering (nor Cayuga Aqua Ventures, LLC) have received no federal funding in the last year.

VITAE
Michael Ben Timmons

PERSONAL
Address and Telephone:

Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering
302 Riley-Robb Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853
(607) 255-1630 (Voice) (607) 255-4080 (FAX) MBT3@cornell.edu (Email)

ACADEMIC:

Ph.D.	1979	Cornell University	Agricultural Engineering & Thermal Processes

PROFESSIONAL STATUS:
Licensed Professional Engineer in New York State, License Number 053470

EMPLOYMENT:
November 1983 to date: Professor (Assistant Professor in 1983, promoted to Full Professor in 1992), Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:
- Board of Directors, Aquacultural Engineering Society
    - (President 2003, 2nd Vice President 2001, 1st VP 2002, Sec/Treasurer 1993-95)
- Board of Directors, Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center (USDA)
- Editorial Board, Aquacultural Engineering Journal

HONORS and AWARDS:

2003	Invited Speaker, "Application of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems", VII Ecuadorian Aquaculture Conference, October 15-17, Hilton Colon Hotel, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Proceedings available from CENAIM.ESPOL. EDU.EC.
2002	Keynote Speaker, "Competitive Potential for USA Urban Aquaculture", National Urban Aquaculture Symposium, sponsored by National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Sea Grant College Program, November 16, 2002, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI.
2000	Named a J. Thomas Clark Professor of Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise at Cornell University (3 year term followed by a 2 year term in 2003)

SELECTED PATENTS (6 awarded to date):

1996	Timmons, M.B. and R.S. Gates. Microprocessor controller based upon time integrated independent variables for environmental control. Patent Number 5,573,179.
2003	Timmons, M.B. Cellular microbead filter for use in water recirculating system. Filed through Cornell Research Foundation. US Patent Number 6,666,965 issued December 2003.

SELECTED BOOKS and PUBLICATIONS (over 200 publications):
Timmons, M.B., Ebeling, J.M., 2007 Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, 975 pp. Cayuga Aqua Ventures, Ithaca, NY. ISBN 978-0-9712646-2-8

Ebeling, J.M., Timmons, M.B., Joiner, J.A., Labatut, R.A., 2005. Mixed-Cell Raceway: Engineering Design Criteria, Construction, Hydraulic Characterization. Journal of North American Aquaculture, 67(3): 193-201.

Testimony Submitted to U.S. House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

March 1, 2010
Concerning

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Submitted by:
George C Nardi, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer
GreatBay Aquaculture, LLC & GreatBay Aquaculture of Maine, LLC
153 Gosling Rd., Portsmouth, NH 03801 & 6 Bay View Ave., Sorrento, ME 04677

SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTERS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee: It is an honor to offer testimony in support of funding for the USDA Regional Aquaculture Center (RAC) program. My name is George Nardi and I have been in the Aquaculture industry for over 15 years and currently a member of the Technical Industry Advisory Committee of NRAC. Our membership also consists of a significant number of companies that provide goods and services to our farmers. I am requesting, on behalf of GreatBay Aquaculture, that the USDA-CSREES Regional Aquaculture Centers be funded at the fully authorized level of $7.5 million for FY 2011. The RAC program is an unusually effective federal program, and full funding is needed to retain this effectiveness.

I attended the very first NRAC meeting in Boston and have watched how NRAC has developed into a key arm of the industry partnering in research issues that can make an impact on the development of the regional aquaculture industry. In truth, the amount of funding is much smaller than it needs to be, but I strongly encourage the funding level at the full level authorized.

The U.S. is the second largest market for seafood in the world. We currently import over 80% of the seafood consumed in this country, contributing over 9 billion dollars to our national trade deficit. The U.S. has some of the world's greatest fresh and salt water resources. Additionally, we have some of the world's best scientific expertise relevant to the field of aquaculture. The Regional Aquaculture Center system performs a vital role in assisting domestic aquaculturists. While traditional terrestrial agriculture has benefited from significant research and extension support over the years, aquaculture remains underserved. A case in point is the Regional Aquaculture Centers who have only been funded at half their authorized funding level since their inception. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have played a vital role in the development and maintenance of our domestic aquaculture industry. It is now time to significantly increase their funding so that they have the resources to help address our national needs.

With significant questions emerging regarding the safety of imported foods and large national trade deficits driven by domestic producers at competitive disadvantages, a significant investment in aquaculture research and extension is essential. The Regional Aquaculture Centers have the potential to address this national need and should be fully funded with a steady increase in funding over the next 10 years. This strategy would represent a prudent investment in our nation's future and will yield returns on investment far in excess of these funding levels. I urge you to support and fund the Regional Aquaculture Centers fully.

Thank you in advance for your consideration; if you need further information on this topic I am available at 603-430-8057.

George Nardi, Co-Founder
GreatBay Aquaculture, LLC

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins
Senator Olympia J. Snowe
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Congressman Michael Michaud
Congressman Thomas Allen
Congressman Carol Shea Porter

Pursuant to Clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rues of the House of Representatives, I hereby provide the following information regarding Federal grants received by GreatBay Aquaculture.

Grants, Calendar Year: 7/31/08 to 7/31/09

- Demonstration of sustainable commercial cod culture, NOAA, $500,000
- The use of reproductive technology to improve flounder growth, USDA, $339,000
- Establishment of an Atlantic cod breeding program for the US aquaculture industry, NOAA, $11,700

Brief Bio:

George C. Nardi, GreatBay Aquaculture, 153 Gosling Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 430-8057; fax 8059; email: gnardi@greatbayaquaculture.com

Experience:

1995-present: GreatBay Aquaculture, LLC, Portsmouth, NH
Co-Founder, Manager and Technology Officer
Marine species hatcheries and grow-out farms, including GreatBay Aquaculture of Maine, LLC. Producers of Atlantic cod, summer flounder, and black sea bass.

1988-1995: New England Fisheries Development Association, Boston, MA
Program Director; managed and directed over $5 million in applied R&D projects in aquaculture & marine fisheries from Maine through the mid-Atlantic.

1986-1987: Kroger Co./Bay State Lobster, Boston, MA
Seafood Specialist/Buyer & Inspector for fresh and frozen seafood products

1984-1986: Sahlman Seafoods, Inc., Cayenne, French Guiana
Assistant General Manager/Shrimp Fleet Manager

1983: Sea Education Association (S.E.A.), Woods Hole, MA
Assistant Scientist, Instructor in marine biology aboard the R/V Westward.

1981-1982: Turks and Caicos Islands, BWI
Fishery Management Scientist (queen conch and spiny lobster)

Education:

State University of New York at Stony Brook: M. S. (Marine Environmental Science)
University of New Hampshire, B. A. (Zoology and Spanish)

- Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce (MAFAC) member 2008-2010
- Board of Directors, Maine Aquaculture Association
- Member, National Aquaculture Association's Marine Aquaculture Committee
- UNH/UMaine Sea Grant Policy Advisory Committee 1997-1999
- Northeast Marine Advisory Council 1994 "Outstanding Achievement Award"

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